



Fort Sam Houston

News Leader®



Vol. 35, No. 45

Fort Sam Houston — Home of Army Medicine

November 7, 2002

Briefs

The AUSA Luncheon, Nov. 8

The Association of the United States Army luncheon will be held Nov. 8, 11:30 a.m. at the NCO Club. The keynote speaker will be Maj. Gen. Darrel Porr, commander, U.S. Army medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston. See unit AUSA representative for ticket information.

Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 11

The traditional Veterans Day ceremony will be held at the FSH National Cemetery, Nov. 11, 9:30 a.m. Keynote speaker will be Lt. Gen. Freddy McFarren, commander, Fifth U.S. Army.

PX and Commissary Open, Nov. 11

The Post Exchange and PXTRA will be open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Commissary will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

FSH Museum open Veterans Day, Nov. 11

The FSH Museum will be open to the public Nov. 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., to commemorate Veterans Day. For more information, call 221-0019 or 221-1886.

Commissary/PX Advisory Council Meeting, Nov. 13

The installation Commissary/PX Advisory Council meeting will be held Nov. 13, 9 a.m., in the Break Room, Commissary, Bldg. 360. For information contact Thomas Lara at 221-5891 or Barbara King at 221-5115.

Native American Pow Wow, Nov. 16

The Pow Wow will be held Nov. 16 at noon and 9 p.m. at the Youth Activity Center, Bldg. 1630 on Watkins Blvd.



Photo by Ray Turner

Members of the Fort Sam Houston Honors Platoon carry the flag draped casket of Warrant Officer Louis R. Rocco into Dodd Field Chapel for a memorial service held Nov. 4. At right, members of the Alamo Silver Wings render a salute to honor their fallen comrade. Rocco lost his battle against cancer on Oct. 31.

Community bids farewell to local hero

Louis Richard Rocco was born on November 19, 1938, in Albuquerque, N. M., to Lita Saiz Rocco and Louis Rocco. He was the eldest son in an Italian-Hispanic family that also included his brothers Steve (deceased), Clyde, Phil and sisters Mary Snell (deceased), Mary Rocco, Sandy Schmidt, Diane Calderon and Gayle Rocco.

By the time Rocco was 13, he was constantly getting into fights, getting kicked out of school and getting into trouble. Most of his teenage years were spent in jail and at age 16 they were getting ready to send him to jail until he was 21.

One hour before his sentencing, he was wandering the streets of Los Angeles and ended up in an Army recruiting station. Staring at the recruiting posters, he heard a voice behind him say, "Can I help you?" Rocco turned and saw a man he only remembered as Sgt. Martinez. Rocco replied, "No, you can't help me. The Army won't take me. I have a criminal record and I'm only 16." Sgt. Martinez told Rocco, "Why don't we sit down and talk about it." They did and as Rocco said, "It was the first time that I spilled my guts. All of the pain and anger came out." Martinez talked to the judge and they agreed that

when Rocco turned 17, after his parents signed a waiver, he would join the Army. As Rocco recounted to everyone he met, "The Army was what I needed. I didn't have structure. I didn't have discipline. I needed that desperately. I needed what the Army had."

On May 24, 1970, Rocco was on his second tour in Vietnam as a medic on a helicopter crew. One day Rocco volunteered to help rescue South Vietnamese soldiers who had been wounded in a firefight. The helicopter he was in was hit and went down on its side. Rocco

See **Vietnam** Page 22

Study could reduce Anthrax shots, decrease side effects

By Karen Fleming-Michael
American Forces Press Service

A study to decrease the required number of Anthrax shots and its accompanied side effects is being conducted at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Maryland.

"We want to use our stores of vaccine wisely and we want to immunize people effectively and minimize side effects,"

said Col. Janine Babcock, principal investigator for the study. The study's goals are twofold.

The first is proving the anthrax vaccine, manufactured by BioPort Corp in Lansing, Mich., is still effective when subjects are given fewer doses than the normal regimen of six shots delivered at one, two and four weeks and then at six, 12 and 18 months, with annual boosters.

"The (current vaccination) schedule is

extremely cumbersome," Babcock said. "It is expensive to implement, and it is very difficult to support from a vaccine production and logistical point of view."

Decreasing the number of doses will also increase patient acceptance, she said. "If you have your choice between six shots and three, we'd all pick three."

The second goal is to change the way the shots are given, which should reduce the side effects of redness, tenderness,

swelling and discomfort sometimes associated with the vaccine. Currently, the shot is given subcutaneously, which means the needle is inserted just between the skin and muscle.

"When you give vaccines (like the anthrax vaccine) subcutaneously, they work very well stimulating the immune system in a very powerful way, but they

See **Anthrax** Page 3

Army announces fewer NCOs promoted in November

By Dan Hassett
Special to the News Leader

The Army will promote fewer mid-level noncommissioned officers in November than it did in the last two months because more sergeants first class chose to stay in the Army.

The Army projects 2,541 promotions to the ranks of sergeant through sergeant major Nov. 1, down from nearly 4,800 in

October and more than 5,100 in September.

"Promotions are down because we are retaining more E-7s," said Lt. Col. Jenelle Roberts, chief of the Enlisted Professional Development Branch at the Pentagon.

"The enlisted strength is up at that grade, so we don't need to promote into that grade," Roberts said. "When that happens, we don't get the 'pull-through'

effect on the next lower grades."

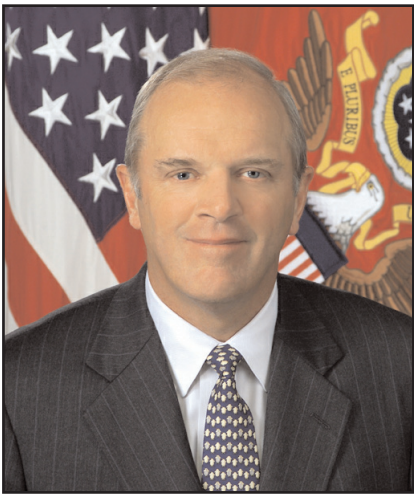
Roberts explained the "pull-through" effect as the creation of promotion slots at lower levels by promotions to higher ranks. A slowdown at one of the higher grades suppresses advancements in lower grades.

"We strictly promote to requirements," Roberts said. "That's why we have the roller coaster effect from month to month."

"December also looks low (for promotions)," Roberts said, "but as we go into the new year, they start to creep up. We'll be back on track by mid- to late winter."

Promotion projections are made on an annual basis, Roberts said, based on loss projections of the previous year. She said the annual rate of promotions is about on target despite monthly fluctuations.

Veterans Day message from Army’s top leaders



**Secretary of the Army
Thomas E. White**

The following is a joint message from the honorable Thomas E. White, Secretary of the Army and General Eric K. Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff, for all Army activities and Army family members:

On Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the American men and women who have served in our nation’s Armed Forces. Through their sacrifices, they have purchased for us the privileges of freedom, democracy, and unmatched opportunity that we enjoy in the United States today, and they have set the conditions for the United States’ place as global leader, with the world’s strongest economy, and the most respected and feared military in the world.

And as we celebrate the contributions of our veterans, we also take this opportunity to salute and to honor you, the soldiers serving in the Army today. Your determination and your readiness to go where you are needed whenever you are called are potent symbols of liberty, justice, and hope for freedom-loving people the world over.

Today, soldiers build upon the 227-year legacy established by veterans who

have gone before. From the first battle of the American Revolution to our ongoing war against terrorism, in conflicts around the globe and in humanitarian missions at home and abroad that have saved countless lives, soldiers have provided the sword and shield that protects our nation. And they are doing so today - over 190,000 soldiers deployed and forward stationed in 120 countries around the world.

Each day you serve, you voluntarily forego comfort and wealth, willingly facing hardships and deployments away from family and loved ones. Sometimes you confront danger and face death in defending the nation’s security. To all of you on point for the nation, whether far from home or here in the United States, thank you for your contributions and your countless sacrifices. It is an honor to serve with you.

And so on Nov. 11, a day of reflection



**Army Chief of Staff
Gen. Eric K. Shinseki**

and tribute, we salute you, and we pledge to you our tireless efforts to ensure that the Army remains the world’s preeminent war fighting land force - the most esteemed institution in the nation, and the most respected Army in the world.

Fort Sam Houston News Leader

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AMEDDD hosts semiannual student health fair

Story and photos by Edward Rivera
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

The Army Medical Department Center and School held its semiannual health fair Oct. 29 at the Willis Hall Food Court Atrium. The Community Health Practices Branch, Principals of Military

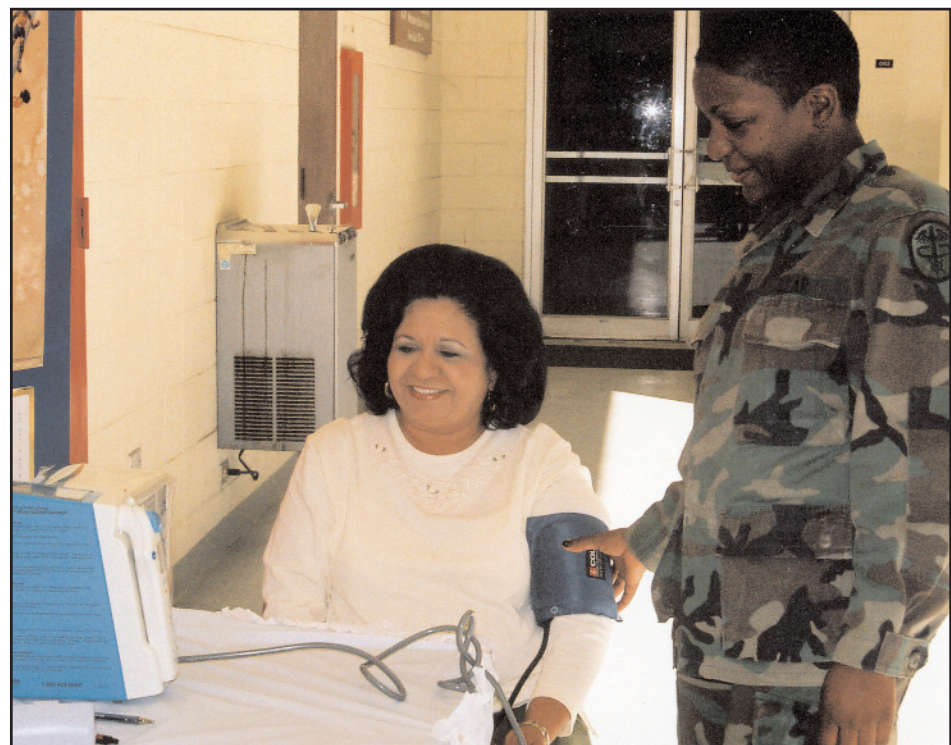
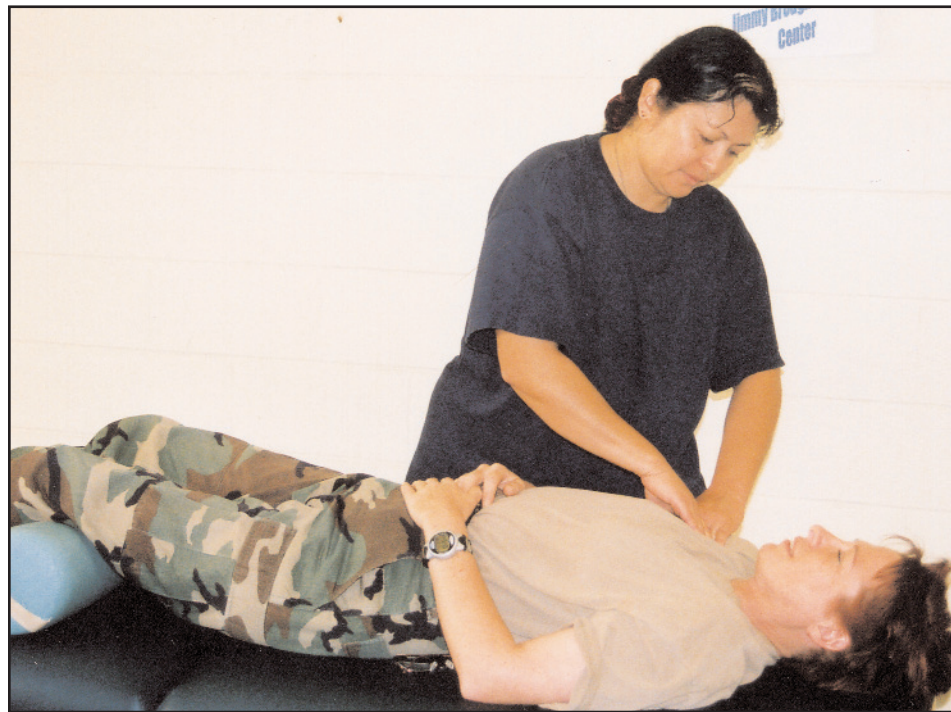
Preventative Medicine Course, hosted the fair, which ran from 8 a.m. till noon. The event had many booths packed with health information. There were blood pressure screenings; massage therapists and one could even see what their inner ears looked like. Information booths included guidance on breast and

testicular self exams, tobacco cessation, nutritional supplement risks, stress management and hearing conservation to name a few. Attendees were treated to free blood pressure tests and massages by registered and certified massage therapists. According AMEDDC&S employee Connie Jo Purchis, the health fair was informative and enjoyable. "I thoroughly enjoyed my massage and feel they should do it more often." The health fair had many diverse and educational stations, which displayed something for everyone who took part in the demonstrations and hands-on events. "I didn't see a single person walk through the area without seeing a topic compelling enough to make them stop and take a closer look," said Maj. Lisa L. O'Brien, of the AMEDDC&S Medical Zoology Branch. "My two personal favorite stations were the body fat testing and the therapeutic massage which was

divine." The health fair is held every fall and spring and is a student project, which allows students hands-on experience in organizing and hosting a community health event. According to Janie Thomas, instructor and project manager, after graduation students will have to organize and host similar events at their home stations. "The students put together an excellent fair with representatives from Quality Management, the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, contract massage therapists and many more health specialties," said Thomas. There were approximately 200 attendees mostly faculty and students from the AMEDDC&S who visited the more than 15 booths. The next health fair will be sometime in the spring. For more information on future health fairs call Janie Thomas at 221-6245.



Capt. Eric Eliason, audiologist student, gives nurse student, 1st Lt. Silvana Durr, a view of her inner ear using a video otoscope during the Oct. 29 health fair at Willis Hall.



1st Lt. Rosilyn Bloom, Community Health Nursing student from Tripler Army Medical Center, checks Hope Gonzales, an AMEDDC&S employee's blood pressure during the health fair Oct. 29 in the Willis Hall Atrium.

Maj. Lisa O'Brien, Army Medical Department Center and School Medical Zoology department, gets a therapeutic massage from contract Massage Therapist Theresa G. Medellin.

Anthrax study at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

From *Study* Page 1

can cause more local side effects," Babcock said. Serious reactions remain statistically rare. However, of the 2,120,594 doses given to 528,015 service members, 11 people reacted severe enough to result in hospitalizations that were "certainly or probably caused" by the vaccine, according to a May 2002 Anthrax Vaccine Expert Committee report. By the mid-1970s, most vaccines were given by intramuscular injections because they produce fewer side effects and they are easier to administer. The anthrax vaccine, which was developed in the 1950s and 1960s and licensed in 1970, remained a subcutaneous injection because only a few hundred people, mostly veterinarians, received it each year, and no one approached the Food and Drug Administration about a change. "When we now vaccinate hundreds of thousands of people, we want to use it as well as we can," said Col. Alan Magill, deputy division director for Communicable Diseases and

Immunology and also a study associate investigator. The study hopes to show that intramuscular shots are the best way to deliver the vaccine, which will make it more tolerable for service members who must receive it. The clinical study is based on preliminary results Dr. Phil Pittman found in a study conducted at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., from 1996 to 1998. "In his study (of 173 subjects), the people who got the fewer doses intramuscularly had levels of antibodies that were not inferior (to the subcutaneous injections) and the reactions were much fewer," Babcock said. The study, funded by Congress, has three parts: Part A is a human study, Part B is a primate study and Part C is a basic science study. WRAIR is participating in Part A, which involves testing the change from subcutaneous to intramuscular injection and decreasing the number of doses. Part B will test the changed regimens against

an aerosol challenge in primates to show whether they are protected from getting anthrax. Part C will go a long way in helping develop new generations of the anthrax vaccine. Researchers will examine blood samples from people and primates taken at the same times, such as before a dose and after a dose, to find the key things in the immune system that predict protection. "We want to find out what the best marker of protection is. Once we've found that, researchers can use that to help develop the next generation of vaccines and validate them," Babcock said. The study will last for 43 months. Of the five centers in the United States hosting the trials—Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas; Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.; University of Alabama at Birmingham, Ala. and the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota — WRAIR is the only military site. Three hundred of the study's 1,560 subjects will participate at WRAIR. None will be active-duty military because service members need to receive

the shots under the current FDA license. "We believe that optimal use of the anthrax vaccine is important for the daily lives of our soldiers, and we wanted to be part of that solution, not five years down the road reading a report on it," she said.



U.S. Army photo
A civilian volunteer receives her first injection of the anthrax vaccine Sept. 24 as part of a 43- month study at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

Army DEP recruits honored at Spurs game

By Jennifer Rodriguez
San Antonio Recruiting Battalion

During the last pre-season game Oct. 25, the Spurs and the U.S. Army San Antonio Recruiting Battalion honored 30 Delayed Entry Program soldiers at a promotion ceremony at center court in the new SBC Center.

Just prior to the game tip-off, Sgt. Crystal Smith, 323rd U.S. Army Band, sang the national anthem to a packed arena. Recruiters assigned to the San Antonio Recruiting Battalion served as the color guard for the basketball game that resulted in the Spurs pummeling Philadelphia 103-82.

The Army recognized soldiers who earned promotion by referring other qualified applicants, who also enlisted.

More than 200 recruits from the San Antonio area along with their families and friends attended the Spurs face off with the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Delayed Entry Soldier Program allows qualified young men and women to enlist into the Armed Forces while delaying their actual report date for Basic Training up to one year. This delay lets DEP soldiers complete their high school education while learning basic military skills before leaving for training and the start of their military careers.

While in the program, soldiers get an edge on their careers and prepare for the mental and physical challenges military service presents. Soldiers who refer other qualified applicants can qualify for promotion ahead of their peers up to the rank of Private First Class.



Photo by Nelia Schrum

A paramedic and Delayed Entry Program Soldier, Teresa Brawdy, is promoted to Private First Class by Lt. Col. Dwayne Gatson Friday prior to the Spurs match up with the 76ers.



Photo by Nelia Schrum

Sgt. Crystal Smith, 323rd U.S. Army Band, sings the national anthem to a packed house at the Spurs match up with the Philadelphia 76ers.

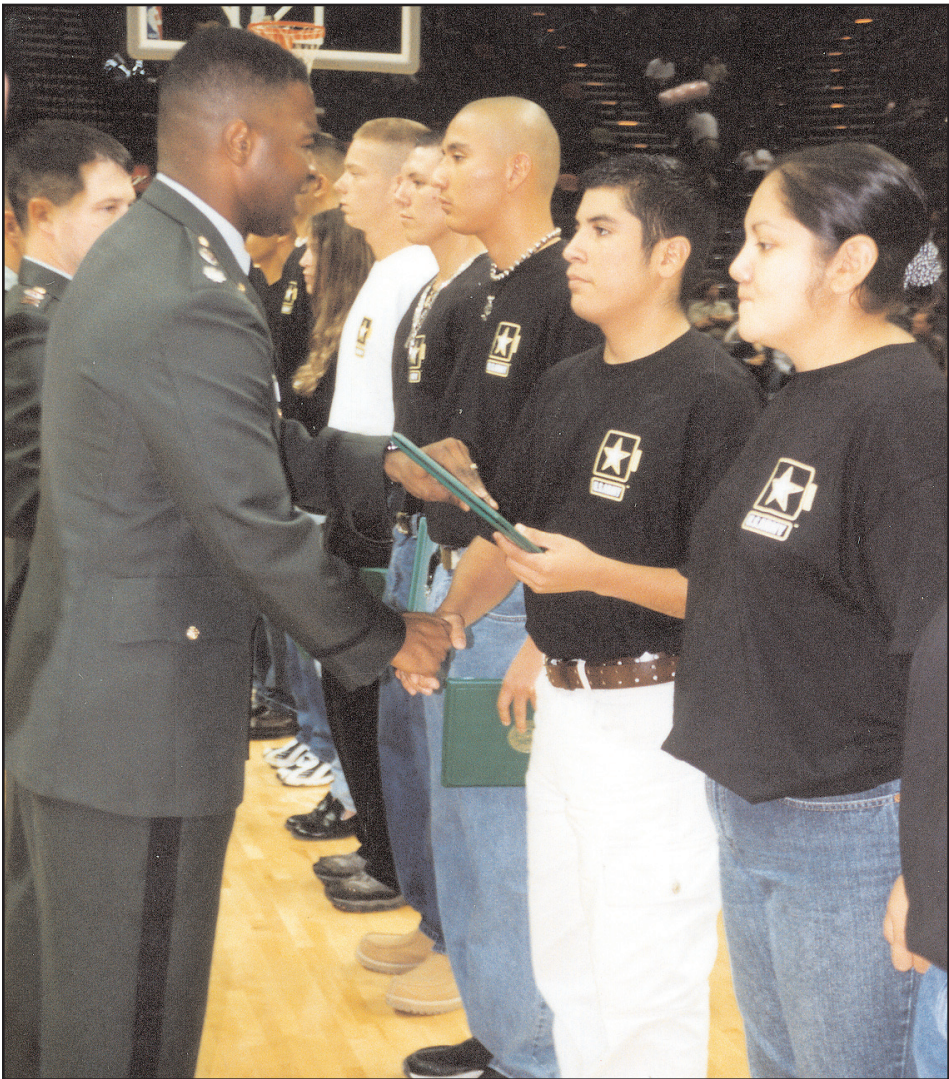


Photo by Jen Rodriguez

Private First Class Domingo Sanchez accepts his certificate of promotion Friday from the commander of the San Antonio Recruiting Battalion, Lt. Col. Dwayne Gatson, at the new SBC Center while Elizabeth Valadez waits her turn.



Photo by Nelia Schrum

Recruiters from the San Antonio Recruiting Battalion served as the color guard for the Spurs last pre-season game including Staff Sgts. Manuel Frias, William Laurido, Jacquee Vercautrin, and Cpl. Joe Garcia.

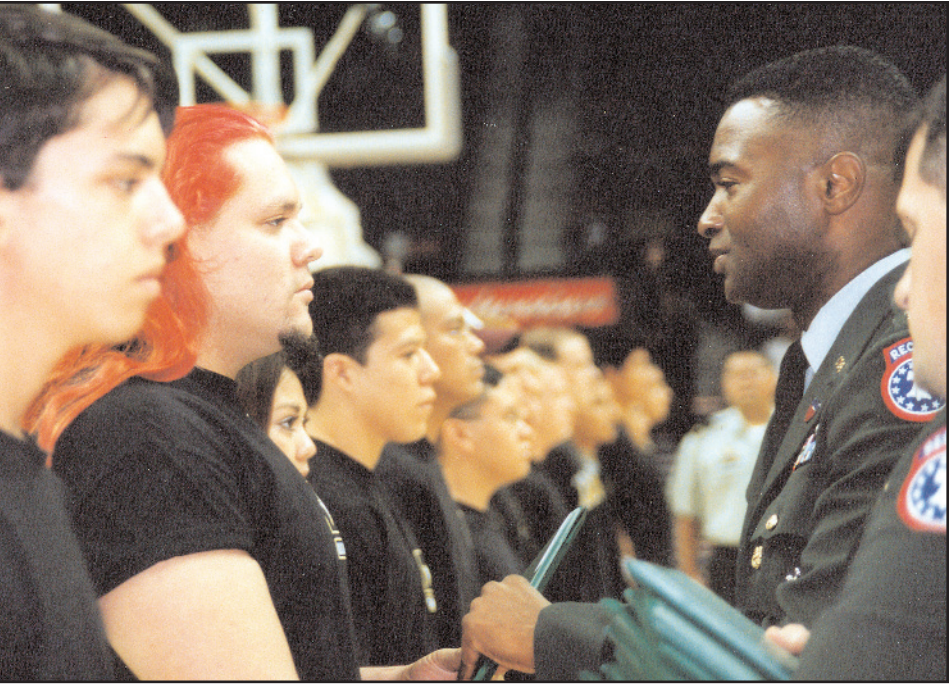


Photo by Nelia Schrum

Tommy Reyna, from Del Rio, receives his certificate of promotion from Lt. Col. Dwayne Gatson.

Veterans’ Day safety message

During Veterans’ Day, we will be honoring those who served, suffered, sacrificed, and died for the sake of our liberty. The Veterans’ Day holiday also offers an opportunity to remember those currently activated outside the United States.

I encourage everyone to exercise good safety sense and precautions if you plan to travel, hunt, or participate in other activities associated with the fall season. Planning ahead and applying risk management procedures can greatly reduce risks. Privately owned vehicle hazards and hunting accidents are major contributors to tragic holiday statistics. In FY 02, 113 soldiers perished in privately owned vehicle accidents. This is above the Army’s three-year average of 108 fatalities. We must be vigilant in our actions and procedures to bring this trend down. Always use seat belts and get plenty of rest when traveling long distances. Prevent unnecessary deaths by not drinking and driving. Also, adjust the speed of your vehicle to the conditions of the road. Prior to operating a motorcycle, you must attend a motorcycle safety course. If you enjoy hunting, I encourage you to use all precautions when using firearms. Risk management must be applied to all activities.

I strongly encourage everyone’s involvement and commitment to make this Veterans’ Day weekend free of serious accidents and needless tragedies. Enjoy a safe and happy holiday!



DARREL R. PORR
MG, US Army
Commanding

A76 update

The appeal filed by the private sector bidder in the Visual Information solicitation resulted in an Appeals Board decision modifying the MEO, but with no change to the overall outcome.

The protest against the BOS solicitation remains under review by the GAO. A hearing is scheduled in Washington D.C. on Nov. 4 with selected government and bidder witnesses called to respond to specific queries raised by the GAO regarding the study and solicitation processes. GAO has 100 days from formal receipt of the protest to conduct their proceedings and render a decision. This date has been established as Nov. 21. If GAO denies the protest, the Protestor has 10 days in which to file a request for reconsideration with GAO. If GAO sustains the protest, there are any number of possible outcomes that could delay the opening of the MEO by several months.

No further action is being taken by the U.S. Army Garrison on either solicitation until the GAO decision is received. Once all proceedings are complete the USAG commander is required to prepare and submit a Final Decision Report advising Headquarters Department of the Army and Congress of the outcome, and receive their approval to commence applicable transition actions.



CFC 2002



Be Someone’s Hero, Give Through CFC
Now through Nov. 15
Contact: Lt. Col. Carol McNeill at 221-8231
or Sgt. 1st Class Bunch at 221-6096

Calls for heat beginning to increase

By Don Young
Special to the News Leader

As temperatures turn cooler, calls to the Public Works Business Center Service Call desk tend to intensify every time the temperature drops a couple of degrees. Keeping everyone comfortable is one of the most difficult problems heating technicians face each fall and spring. Temperatures that vary by 10 to 30 degrees daily are made even worse by old heating and air conditioning systems that cannot be switched back and forth between heat and cool as we can with home systems.

While newer buildings have modern systems that can respond to the drastic changes in temperature, many of the older facilities are still tied to systems that require a complete change over to switch from cool to heat and back again. For this reason, we attempt to delay making the switch in these systems until the heating demand stabilizes.

Although this may leave some people uncomfortable for a few hours in the morning, most appreciate the decision as it warms up later in the morning. The fact of the matter is that PWBC doesn't have enough technicians to hand massage each

system on a daily basis. For this reason, a priority response list has been established to provide the most immediate service possible in the following order: First is family housing, barracks and billeting. Second is health care and child care facilities and third, is all other facilities.

Building managers should contact the PWBC Service Call desk if they are experiencing major temperature shifts in their facilities.

Family housing residents should be aware of any strange odors the first time they turn on their heaters. If possible, open windows or doors for a few minutes and the odor should go away. If that doesn't work, call Service Call (221-3144) and report the problem.

Space heaters are not authorized in work areas unless approved by the Fire Department. In addition to the possible fire hazard, space heaters draw a great amount of electricity and often cause power failures when demand exceeds available power. It is advisable to keep a sweater or jacket at the office to ward off the morning chill.

(Young handles customer relations for Public Works and can be reached at 221-5008).



LEVEL II CLASSES

Last chance to attend AFTB classes this year!

Make the most of your Army life by learning about the resources available to you on every installation. Take advantage of the training and experience of other military family members and join an Army Family Team Building class. Look over the schedule below and choose the classes you are interested in, or take them all.

Tuesday, Nov. 12

- 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Adapting to Change & Stress Management (Brown Bag Lunch while you're learning!)
- 12:45 – 2 p.m. Networking with Community Agencies Building a Resource Library

Thursday, Nov. 14

- 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Benefits, Entitlements & Compensation (Brown Bag Lunch while you're learning!)
- 12:45 – 2 p.m. Time Management & Meeting Management

Tuesday, Nov. 19

- 8:30 – 10 a.m. Enhancing Relationship Building & Group Dynamics
- 10:15 – 11:30 a.m. Volunteer Management & Understanding Needs

Wednesday, Nov. 20

- 8:30 – 10 a.m. Military Grade/Command Structure Traditions, Customs, Courtesies & Protocol
- 10:15 - 11:30 a.m. Intermediate Problem Solving Crisis & Coping

Thursday, Nov. 21

- 8:30 – 10 a.m. Intro to Effective Leadership & Conflict Management
- 10:15 – 11:30 a.m. Communication

Note: All classes are held in the Roadrunner Community Center, for registration, call 221 -2705.

Golden Corral offers ‘Thank You’ to nation’s patriots

Veterans Day is a celebration to honor America’s military personnel for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. Golden Corral and the Disabled American Veterans are joining forces nationwide for the second year to honor our nation’s heroes with, Military Appreciation Night 2002 on Nov. 11, from 5-9 p.m.

Every Golden Corral restaurant will offer a free dine-in dinner buffet to all veterans and active duty military personnel as our way of showing gratitude to all the men and women who serve and are willing to sacrifice their lives to protect ours.

This year, United States Army Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf is supporting Military Appreciation Night through a public service announcement, which encourages all veterans and active duty military to participate and be recognized for their sacrifice and dedication to protecting our nation’s freedom.

“My greatest honor has been protecting this country’s freedom,” said Schwarzkopf in the PSA. “This night is to

thank the men and women of our military for their countless hours of service that often go unnoticed.”

On Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11, from 5-9 p.m., all 400 plus Golden Corral restaurants spanning 39 states will offer veterans and retired and active duty members of the U.S. military a free dine-in dinner buffet plus beverage. This offer is also extended to members of the U.S. Reserves and the National Guard. All that is required to receive the free dine-in buffet is that all honored military guests state their military status when coming through the ordering line the night of the event.

Again in 2002, a key aspect of the Military Appreciation Night local celebration will be the presence of members of the Disabled American Veterans organization in our restaurants throughout Veterans Day event. Our partnership with the DAV allows us an opportunity to provide them with local exposure for their specific needs in all communities where we have restaurants, and the DAV will be the beneficiary of any donations collected throughout the Military Appreciation event.



The Michael Blake Tour - America’s first entertainment effort for our domestic troops

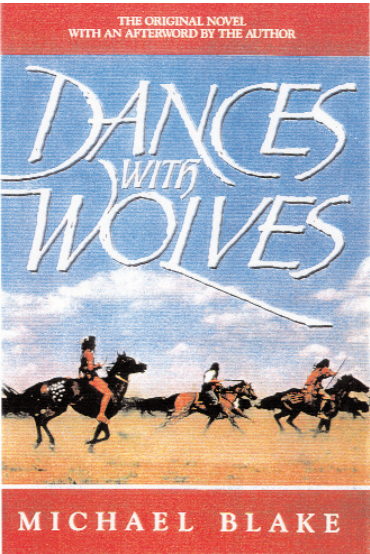
Award-winning author and entertainer Michael Blake will visit Fort Sam Houston Nov. 7, to support and show appreciation for America’s military personnel.

The show, produced by W.T. Morgan, integrates storytelling with visuals, music and dance. Blake’s four novels provide the structure for the evening’s entertainment, weaving stories from Dances with Wolves, its sequel The Holy Road, Airman Mortensen, and Marching to Valhalla with personal anecdotes from his life. Visuals and music help transition between stories, while Blake shares behind the scenes stories about working in Hollywood, his early life in the military, an insider’s view of writing and the publishing world, and personal reminiscences that illustrate how much of life is possible.

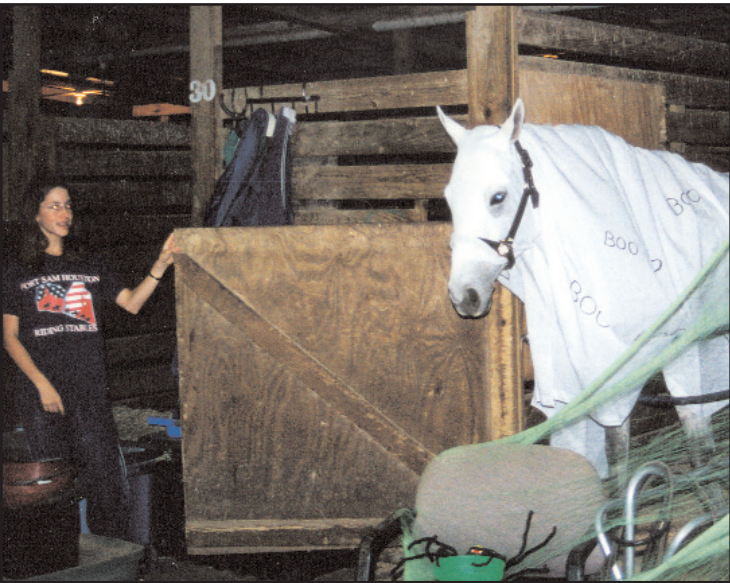
Blake has long dedicated his life to public service winning the Americanism Award in 1992. He was honorably discharged from Vandenberg Air Force Base, holding the ranking of E3, in 1968. During his acceptance

remarks for the Americanism Award, Blake stated, “it’s the rank and file of our troops that I look forward to meeting and entertaining – the extended family of the United States Armed Forces.” This is the sentiment that led to this innovative tour.

Blake will be at Fort Sam Houston Nov. 7, Blesse Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., Willis Hall, Bldg. 2841, corner of Harry Wurzbach and Stanley Road.



FSH 4-H Youth Riders start new Halloween tradition to decorate stalls, spook judges



In the midst of cobwebs and spiders, “Reggie” the Ghost, haunts first place winner Sarah Tedesco’s stall during the first Halloween stall decorating contest Oct. 31.

Inspector General Office

The Inspector General Office will be operating minimal staff during the period Nov. 12-15 due to installation of new carpet and furniture.

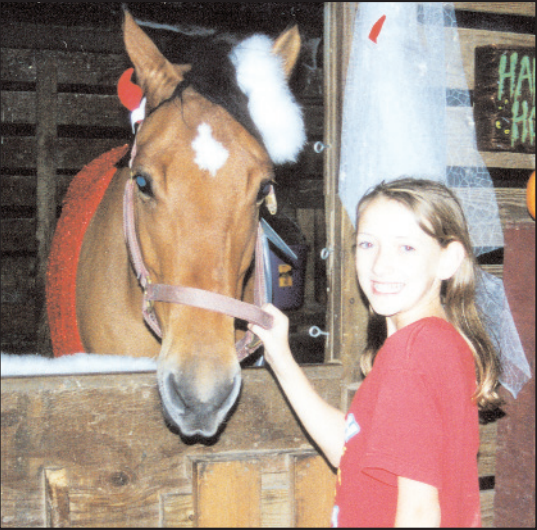
Story and photos by Farrah Rahm
Special to the News Leader

Devils, ghosts and witches have long been a part of haunted houses, but haunted horses? Not until this year. The Sam Houston 4-H Youth Riders started their own Halloween tradition this year with the first-ever Stall Decorating Contest. Judges Rene Mosqueda, 4-H Agriculture Technician of the County Extension Office, Col. Lark Ford, BAMC,

and Les Walters, Chief of the Recreation and Fitness Division, CABC, braved their ways through the spooky stalls of the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center and awarded the top three entrants gift certificates to Petsmart. First, second and third places went to Sarah Tedesco, Ashley and Casey Garrison and Kelsey and Clay Whitaker, respectively, for their creative horse and stall decorations.



Ashley and Casey Garrison’s Nightmare in Shining Armor, “Rio”, takes second place. All entrants were responsible for their own creative design.



Third place winner Kelsey Whitaker shows off her stall during the judging. True to her horse “Slick’s” personality, the theme is Half Angel, Half Devil.



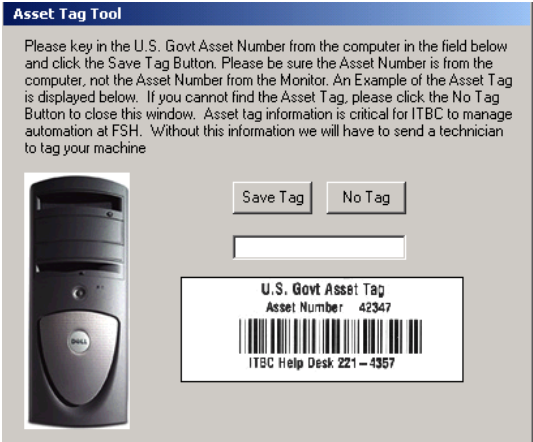
ITBC needs your support

The Information Technology Business Center enlists the support of all computer users on the installation to help identify each computer and where it is connected. This process will allow the ITBC to provide more complete and accurate customer support at all levels.

In the near future ITBC will send out a note requesting all users to look at your CPU and see if there is a “U.S. Govt Asset Tag” on the front of the unit. The application will look to see if an Asset file already exists, and if it is there the application will end. If it is not already on file, this message will pop up upon start up of your computer.



This is a 5 second Splash Then This screen follows



If you see this screen pop up, all you have to do is key in the Asset Number (i.e., 42347 in the example above) into the space provided and click the “Save Tag” button. If your CPU does not have an Asset Tag, just click the “No Tag” button. The Tivoli inventory will read and update the Asset Tag field in the ITBC Inventory Database. This will allow ITBC to see how many computers actually have an Asset Tag but do not have an Asset file on record. If there is no Asset Tag ITBC will need to send a Technician to tag the unit. If the tag is there, we will save the cost of sending a Technician out and also minimize disruption to users.

SkillSoft E-Learning offers more than 1,500 courses

By Julie Gueller
Special to the News Leader

The Army is pleased to announce its partnership agreement with SkillSoft (formerly SmartForce). SkillSoft E-Learning offers a state-of-the-art computer-based training infrastructure, which customizes training for individuals, while ensuring that knowledge is delivered in a fast, effective way.

All active and reserve component military personnel and civilian employees, including nonappropriated fund employees, are eligible to access more than 1,500 courses in the areas of information technology, business skills, and interpersonal skills from any location, around the clock, and to have access to live help, technical seminars, and a library where students can access white papers and other documents. Contract personnel can establish a separate contract with SkillSoft at a reduced fee for specific tracks that are available.

Those interested in meeting certification qualifications in the IT field can take

advantage of preparation training, including practice tests (Not the certification tests), and personal mentoring for 40 certification programs. While SkillSoft does not issue certifications, it does issue certificates of completions for training successfully completed.

If you are interested in registering for SkillSoft training, you must have an Army Knowledge Online account. AKO is the Army intranet portal that consolidates news, briefings, a job bank, weather reports, school and benefits information, and a plethora of other service-related information into a single point of entry.

Once logged into AKO, click once on Self Service (left side of screen). From the list of options that appear, click on My Education. This will take you to the education page, which has a channel for Army Computer Based Training. Follow the instructions provided on-line.

For more information regarding SkillSoft training, please E-mail Julie Gueller@us.army.mil or call 210.221-8945.

School Liaison Officer

Keith A. Toney, Fort Sam Houston School Liaison Officer, has “Chart Your Course” academic packets available. Chart Your Course is a program designed by the Military Child Education Coalition to help military students and their parents plan a successful journey through high school and beyond. The packets contain an Academic Passport, transition tips and a “map” of how to best academically negotiate the high school years. Toney’s office is located in the Roadrunner Community Center Bldg. 2797 or he can be reached by phone at 221-9613 or email at Keith.Toney@CEN.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL.

Post worship schedule

Protestant

Sunday:
8 a.m. Service, AMEDD Regimental Chapel, Bldg. 1398
9 a.m. Traditional Service, Installation Chaplain’s Office, Bldg.2530
9:15 a.m. Troop Service, Evans Auditorium, Bldg. 1396
10 a.m. Service, BAMC Chapel
10:45 a.m. Gospel Service, Dodd Field Chapel, Bldg. 1721
11 a.m. Service, AMEDD Regimental Chapel
11:15 a.m. Gospel Service, Evans Auditorium
Wednesday:
9:30 to 11:30 a.m. PWOC meeting, Dodd Field Chapel (Childcare is provided for those who attend PWOC meeting).
12 p.m. Bible Study, Dodd Field Chapel
12 p.m. Service, BAMC Chapel



Catholic

Saturday:
5:30 p.m. Mass, AMEDD Regimental Chapel
Sunday:
8:30 a.m. Mass, BAMC Chapel
9:15 a.m. Mass, Dodd Field Chapel
9:15 a.m. Mass, AMEDD Regimental Chapel
11:15 a.m. Mass, BAMC Chapel
*12:45 p.m. Mass, Dodd Field Chapel
*Bilingual Mass on 1st Sunday of the month (For information call 590-6593).
Weekdays:
11 a.m. Mass, BAMC Chapel
11:30 a.m. Mass, AMEDD Regimental Chapel
1st Friday: 9 a.m. Mass Catholic Women, Dodd Field Chapel

Jewish

Friday:
8 p.m. Service, Dodd Field Chapel
8:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat, Dodd Field Chapel (For information call 379-8666 or 493-6660)

Mormon

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Bldg. 1350, Room 1, Koehler Road, across from Evans Auditorium
Tuesday: 7 p.m. LDS Studies, AMEDD Regimental Chapel

Muslim

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Religious Education, Bldg. 607A, Infantry Post
Friday: 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Prayer Service, Bldg. 607A, Infantry Post
Thursday: 8 p.m. Adult Religious Education, Bldg. 607A, Infantry Post
Note: The Post Gift Chapel is closed for renovations indefinitely.

Bible studies schedule

187th MED BN Bible Study on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Bldg. 2791 Basement Bible Study on Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the AMEDD Regimental Chapel, Bldg.

Chaplain Administrative Offices are located at Dodd Field Chapel, Bldg. 1721, phone number 221-5432. Garrison staff duty officer, (after duty) 221-2810.

San Antonio Muslim Women’s Association INVITES

Saturday, November 9th, 2002
From Noon until 10 p.m. at the
International Center of Incarnate Word University
(On Hildebrand, just off Highway 281)

THE GLORIOUS CIVILIZATION OF ISLAMIC SPAIN (AL-ANDALUS)

The Middle East Policy Council of Washington, D. C.
sponsors AUDREY SHABBAS and her educational curriculum
ISLAM AND THE ARAB WORLD
12:30 p.m – 5:30 p.m.
Iftar: traditional breaking of the daily Fast
(Maghrib-evening prayer)

BUFFET-STYLED DINNER - 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Interactive Qur’an Reading
LED BY: HAJJ ALI MOSHIRSADRI
FOR INFO: Call Narjis Pierre at 736-7119
or e-mail: NARJAS@AOL.COM

FSH Energy Awareness Poster Contest

Fifth and sixth grade students at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School submitted posters for the 23rd annual Fort Sam Houston Energy Awareness Poster Contest during October’s observance of Energy Awareness Month. Garrison Commander Col. Douglas A. Biggerstaff, announced the winners in an assembly at the school on Oct. 23 and congratulated all the students that participated. First place winners received 26 inch, 18 speed bikes, second place received 26 inch, 12 speed bikes and third place received CD players. Johnson Controls, Inc. donated the prizes in cooperation with the Fort Sam Houston PX.



Courtesy Photo

Left to right, John Reasoner, representative from Johnson Controls, Inc., Chris Sampson, Boys’ 1st place; Col. Douglas A. Biggerstaff, Garrison commander; Yucara Martin, girls’ 1st place; Jayne Hatton, principal; Nathan Eggers, boys’ 2nd place; Linda Malcom, art teacher; Lindsey Hillhouse, girls’ 2nd place; Peter Simpkins, boys’ 3rd place; Kevin Nikodym, FSH Energy Manager; and Megann Taylor, girls’ 3rd place.

Installation Fall Cleanup begins Nov. 18 through 22



Fort Sam Houston will conduct Installation Fall Clean-up the week of Nov. 18 through 22. During this week, military and civilian personnel are encouraged to concentrate efforts on the appearance of areas adjacent to their work places and assigned police areas of responsibility as outlined in FS Regulation 420-2. This includes cleaning of parking lots and family housing areas as designated in the latest Area of Responsibility map sheet for tenants. Place large items (old furniture items, large tree limbs, brush, etc.) on the curb in front of the quarters for pick up by the unit sponsor/PWBC.

- Large garbage dumpsters will be located at the following sites:
- **Infantry and Staff Post Housing Area** – Hood and North New Braunfels Streets
 - **Harris Heights Housing Area** – Corner of Hardee and Forage Roads
 - **Patch/Chafee Housing Area** – Corner of Wilson Street and Garden Avenue
 - **Graham/Dickman and Artillery Post Housing Area** – Corner of Artillery Road and S-27



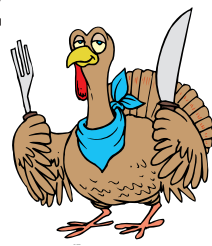
Post Thrift Shop open for shopping

Although the Thrift Shop is no longer accepting consignments, we are still open for sales through the end of January. Our shelves and racks are well-stocked with lots of adult and children’s clothing, household goods, furniture, Thanksgiving and Christmas items, and much much more. Right now we are having a big clearance sale on clothing in the Budget Shop only. All clothing in the Budget Shop is priced at \$1 or less and is constantly being replenished. We are still accepting donations of clothing and household goods. Our donation shed is open 24/7. The Thrift Shop will be open on the second Saturday of November, November 9th for sales from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our regular days and open hours will remain the same, Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come out and find that special bargain and start shopping early for the holidays!

Mission Thanksgiving 2002

Spend this great American Holiday with some great Americans—our sons and daughters in uniform!

By Chaplain (Maj.) Jeffrey Giannola
Special to the News Leader




The U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, is hosting the annual “Mission Thanksgiving” program, where families in the San Antonio area will be allowed to take soldiers home for Thanksgiving Day. For many of these young men and women, this will be their first Thanksgiving away from home. If you want to participate as a host family by inviting two soldiers to your home for a Thanksgiving meal, call the AMEDD Chapel at 221-3390/4362 prior to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 18 or contact us by email at Daniel.Letters@cen.amedd.army.mil or Jeffrey.Giannola@cen.amedd.army.mil.

Soldiers will meet families at 10 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, at the AMEDD Chapel (on Garden Avenue just off Hardee Street) and must be returned to their barracks no later than 9 p.m. that day. **Have a blessed Thanksgiving!**

Cash and Carry sale of NAF property

Items of property will be sold between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 20, in Bldg. 4191 Bay “C”. Cash and checks with picture identification will be accepted forms of payment. All sales are final. Property sold as is where is. Items available for sale include used refrigerators, used microwave ovens, used televisions, used curtains, used bed spreads, used carpet tile, used lamps with shades, used desk chairs, used computers with monitors and keyboard, used lounge easy chairs, used golf cart battery chargers, desks, used recliners, printer stands, used air conditioners, small safe, wall art, glass framed bulletin boards, assorted used billeting furniture, used curtain rods, used vacuum cleaners and more.

All property listed is subject to issue to NAF activities for continued use prior to date of sale. For more information or directions, please call the MWR Warehouse at 221-4449 or 221-4950.



Tough ‘Ombre 10K/5K

Date: December 14, 2002

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Pre-register by December 11, 2002

Entry fees:

- \$15 for 10K—\$20 on race-day
- \$10 for 5K Run/Walk \$15 on race-day
- \$50 for four-person 10-K teams

The Tough ‘Ombre 10K is the oldest certified running race in Texas. The course is certified by USA Track and Field. The race starts at McAllister Park (13102 Jones-Maltsberger) in San Antonio.

Proceeds will be used to defray the cost of the Army Reserve Ambassadors to participate in the San Antonio Fiesta 2003.

For more information or to register call:
Lynda at 210-221-4166

Run

~~Ride~~ to the sound of the guns

Prizes

- The first 200 registrants receive a T-shirt.
- Trophy/medal to top three finishers in the following categories: Age 15 and under, men’s, women’s, men’s masters, women’s masters, and teams. Team scores will be the average time of all four runners.

Sponsored by:

H-E-B

active.com

RUNNER'S WORLD

90th RSC
Attn: Tough ‘Ombre 10K/5K
1920 Harry Wurzbach Hwy.
San Antonio, TX 78209
Phone: 210-221-4166

Or register on-line at
www.active.com

Name

Address

Phone

T-shirt Size: S M L XL

Sex

Age on race day

Signature

Date

Signature of parent or guardian if under 18 years of age.

Date

Team Name (10K only)

10K 5K

McAllister

Fort Sam Houston Running Team places 4th at ‘Army Ten Miler’

It was in this spirit of motivation and a yearning to win the race that the Fort Sam Houston Running Team traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in this prestigious race, Oct. 20.

The Fort Sam Houston team competed in the mix division, and took 4th place out of 120 teams that competed with a time of 4:06.39. They came in 22 seconds behind third place winner USARAK.

The “Army Ten-Miler” is the largest 10-mile race in America. This Army-wide race is recognized as the Army’s premiere running event. This race also

serves as catalyst to build morale, encourage Army fitness goals, celebrate the American Spirit within the Armed Forces, as well as promoting the United States Army.

This run brings together the active duty, Army Reserve, National Guard, military retirees, cadets, DoD civilian employees, industry partners, and family members in one athletic competition.

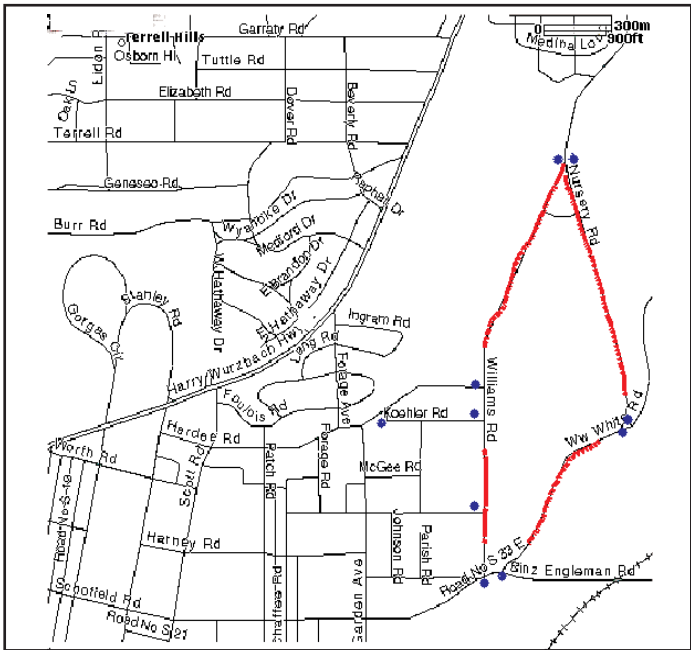
The Fort Sam Houston team consisted of John Detroit, Joseph Molloy, Mark Pumphrey, Kerry Davidson, Stephen Keck, Amy Sander, Cindy Medlin and Heidi Prechtel.



No change to 232nd Medical Battalion PT Schedule

Be careful while driving in the vicinity of troop formations.

Last week we reported a change in the 232nd Medical Battalion PT and unit run schedule. There will not be a change in the battalion Physical Fitness training time. Physical Fitness training will remain between the hours of 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. 232nd Medical Battalion PT days are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Stationary road guards will be posted to close the running routes 15 minutes prior to and after scheduled training times. The roads closed include Williams Road to W.W. White Road and Nursery Road (see map).



Early birds find great bargains

By Margaret McKenzie
Special to the News Leader

Despite the threat of heavy rains on Saturday, die-hard Garage Sale goers flocked to the Roadrunner Community parking lot to buy their treasures. Early shoppers were able to garner bargains from the garage sale which begun promptly at 7 a.m. Approximately 40 garage sale vendors showed up this bi-annual event.

Because of the bad weather, residents and vendors will have a second chance to sell their wares Dec. 7 during the annual “Christmas on the Corridor” event, which will be held at MacArthur Parade Field. The Garage Sale will be held in the parking lot adjacent to the Pavilion.



Pictures by Farrah Rahm

Garage sale patron loads up on treasures before the rains came.

Harlequin recognized in ceremony

On Nov. 1, a ceremony was held to recognize Fort Sam Houston’s own Harlequin Dinner Theatre’s achievements in the international U.S. Army Forces Command Festival of the Performing Arts.

Col. Douglas A. Biggerstaff commander, U.S. Army Garrison presented awards to volunteers, contractors and representatives of the Harlequin for acting, costumes, directing, set, lighting and over all production.

Recognized for their achievements were Julia Cammack and Magda Kowalczyk for outstanding cameo performances; Donna Furfaro first place, actress in a supporting role; Jason Hightower second place, actor in a supporting role; Lynn Morren first place,

actor in a supporting role; Jimmie Vohs second place, actress in a leading role; Kevin Wilson third place, actor in a leading role; Paul Bacon first place, actor in a leading role; William C. Champlin first place, director; Bruce E. Shirky and William C. Champlin second place, set and lighting; and Julia Cammack first place, costume design.

The entire cast and crew of “Lend Me A Tenor” were lauded by Harlequin artistic director Bruce E. Shirky, who said, “This recognition is due to the remarkable dedication of the many volunteers who so generously give of their time and talent, both in the production and behind the scenes, to bring quality community theatre to Fort Sam Houston.”



Photo by Chris Champlin

Left to right Julia Cammack, Paul Bacon, Jimmie Vohs, William C. Champlin, Florence Bunten, Lynn Morren, Donna Furfaro, Magda Kowalczyk, and Kevin Wilson were recognized for their contributions and achievements in community theatre at Fort Sam Houston Nov. 1.

U.S. Army Soldier Show seeks talented soldiers

By Ben Paniagua
Special to the News Leader

The United States Army Soldier Show is accepting applications from interested soldiers who want to participate in the 2003 Army Soldier Show. Needed are talented soldiers who can sing, dance and/or play a musical instrument.

Soldiers who wish to audition for this prestigious show must submit a VHS demo tape, records brief, commander’s letter of release, entertainment resume, DA full length photo, their latest OER/NCOER, and a copy of the most recent Army Physical Fitness test. Candidates are selected not only based on their musical talents, but also in their ability to represent the Army in appearances, level of physical fitness, and military bearing.

After submitting packets, all qualified applicants are screened by a board consisting of industry professionals, BOSS representatives, and military community leaders. The top candidates from worldwide Army are then brought to Fort Belvoir, Va. for a one-week live audition process, and, from that group, the final cast is selected. The show tours the continental United States and overseas bases for approximately six months.

For more information and to conduct a local audition, please contact Ben Paniagua at 224-7250 after 1300 daily except Mondays. Packets must be submitted to CFSC in Washington, D. C. by Dec. 31.

Child and Youth Services Central Registration

Central Registration has openings in the Before/After Kindergarten Program at the Child Development Center. To register call 221-4871 to make an appointment with Central Registration. We do accept walk-ins. To register have current shot records and proof of income.

Babysitting classes will be offered Nov. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797 (limited seating). Cost is \$15. For information call 221-1723. For upcoming seasonal Child and Youth activities ensure your membership is current.



Fort Sam Houston’s NCO Club November Menu

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AT FORT SAM HOUSTON'S NCO CLUB
Call 224-2721 for More Information

Club Closed Every Monday

We Serve an "ALL YOU CAN EAT" BUFFET on Tuesdays - Friday 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
\$5.95/\$4.95 for Club Members (Includes: Beverage, Soup & Dessert)

Tuesdays & Wednesdays - Club Closes at 2:00 P.M. (Open only for Special Events)

Wednesday is Double Punch Day on your Bunch a Lunch Card!

BIG BUCKS BINGO – 1st Saturday of Every Month (12:30 P.M. - Early Bird Start)
Doors open at 11:00 A.M.
\$10,300.00 GUARANTEED GIVEAWAY!!

BINGO Every Thursday & Friday (6:50 P.M. - Early Bird Start) Doors open at 5:00 P.M. and Saturday (12:50 P.M. - Early Bird Start) Doors open at 11:00 A.M.
Bingo Players Eat FREE for ALL Bingo Sessions!!!



DAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT IN SAM'S SPORTS BAR
From 5:30 P.M. to ???
FREE BUFFET FOR MEMBERS
From 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
COME EARLY AND DT BE LEFT OUT!!!

Come join us for Latin night
23 November 2002
In the Seguin Room – Doors open at 9:00pm
No cover charge for members
\$3.00 cover charge for non-members

Club Closed November 27 (for Private Function), 28 and 29, 2002 for the Holiday





Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!!!

Fort Sam Houston’s Officer’s
Club November Menu

LUNCH BUFFET
\$5.95 for non-members /\$4.95 for Club Members
Includes: Beverage, Soup & Dessert

EVERY MONDAY WE FEATURE A VARIETY OF ENTREES
PLUS A CHEF’S SPECIAL!
Fried Chicken & Chef’s Special every Tuesday
Texas BBQ Ribs & Chef’s Special every Wednesday!
Mexican Foods plus “JOE’S BEANS” every Thursday!

FRIDAY IS FISH DAY! PLUS WE FEATURE A CHEF S SPECIAL

CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH
November 10th & 24th, 2002
10:00 AM to 1:30 PM
\$11.95 for Members, \$13.95 for Non-Members
\$5.95 for Children 7-11
Children 6 & Under with our Compliments

Seafood Buffet – November 15, 2002
\$11.95 for Members, \$13.95 for Non-Members
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE WILL BE OPEN !

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY BRUNCH
November 17, 2002
10:00 AM to 1:30 PM
\$13.95 Non-members, \$11.95 Members

Thanksgiving Family Buffet
Thursday, November 28, 2002, Serving from 11:00am til 3:00pm
\$13.95 for Members, \$15.95 for Non-members
\$6.95 for Children 7-11, Children 6 and under with our compliments!

Club closed Friday, November 29, 2002 for the holiday

Don’t forget to contact us about all your catering needs.
We’re available for Dining-Ins, Dining-Outs, Balls,
Training Sessions, Conferences, Wedding Receptions,
Rehearsal Dinners, Bridal Showers or Bridal
Luncheons! Come enjoy the Rich, Historic Elegance at
the Officers’ Club. For more information call 224-421.



Memorial Services Detachment

Calling all fellow veterans. The Memorial Services Detachment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery is in need of your support in performing the duties of the Honor Guard that the veterans of our nation deserve when they are buried. This requires only six hours of your time once a week. You may choose a day of the week you like. If you are interested, please call 824-8404 or 681-9234.

Holiday Ball
A Season of
Celebration
and
Thanks

FORT SAM HOUSTON NCO CLUB
1800 Friday, 6 December 2002

Ticket Sales thru 2 Dec

\$20 per Person includes:

- ★ *Entertainment*
- ★ *Dancing to D.J. Music*
- ★ *Door Prizes*
- ★ *Photographer Available (\$15 and up)*

★ **MILITARY DRESS UNIFORM IS ENCOURAGED**

★ **FORMAL EVENING WEAR OPTIONAL**



Band spreads holiday cheer

With the holidays fast approaching, it is time once again to start planning your office or class festivities. The 323rd Army Band will be spreading holiday cheer around the Fort Sam Houston community, performing festive tunes of the season. The band will have groups available Dec. 2 to 6 and Dec. 9 to 12, between noon and 5 p.m.

If you would like a group to perform for 20-30 minutes at your office party or just to bring the holiday spirit to the office or classroom, contact the band to schedule a date and time. To schedule the band, call Staff Sgt. Michael Rousseau at 221-9641, or email him at michael.rousseau@cen.amedd.army.mil no later than Nov. 8. *Happy Holidays!*





Vietnam hero leaves legacy of community involvement



**Chief Warrant Officer Two
Louis R. Rocco**

From *Community Page 1*

climbed on top and opened the door to return fire. After a while, the helicopter started to catch on fire and the crew, because of their wounds, could not evacuate on their own. Rocco pulled out the pilot and carried him across 20 meters of open ground to the safety of a downed tree. He returned and helped the co-pilot, Lee Caubarraux, climb out. The gunner was dead, but Rocco still managed to evacuate the other medic before the

flames consumed him. Rocco carried each man into the jungle and began first aid before passing out from the wounds he had incurred in the crash.

In 1974, Rocco was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Gerald R. Ford for his heroic deeds that fateful day in the jungles of South Vietnam. The President told Rocco that it was the first medal he had placed on any live soldier. Rocco told him, "It is the first medal I have ever received."

Rocco did receive numerous medals besides the Medal of Honor to include the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

After Rocco returned from Vietnam, he continued his service in the Army and started a family. His eldest son, Roy is married to Christina, and they have two children, James and Thomas. Rocco's daughter, Theresa is married to Barry DuBois, and they have two sons, Dell Rocco and Cameron. Brian, the youngest of Rocco's children, and his daughter, Ashley live in California. Rocco eventually retired as a Physicians Assistant and Chief Warrant Officer. In 1991, during Desert Storm, Rocco went back on active duty for a while at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Upon returning to New Mexico after his assignment to Fort Sam Houston, he met Maria Chavez Schneider. They married in 1992 in San Miquel de Allende,

Mexico.

After retiring from the Army and before Desert Storm, Rocco returned to New Mexico, where he became extensively involved with veterans' issues. He helped establish a shelter for homeless veterans. Rocco persuaded legislators in N. M., and then voters, to let all veterans into state-run colleges and universities for free. He also secured funding for a veterans' nursing home. Rocco never gave up helping those around him, regardless of who they were or what situation they were in. His wife, Maria, once said, "We'll go to the White House two or three times a year, and he'll talk to the President of the United States the same as the homeless guy on the street." That was Rocco.

The last project he founded together with retired Sgt. Maj. Benito Guerrero, was Veterans Against Violence and Drugs. On the 20th of January 2000, the program began with the "Gathering of Eagles," a major event held at Fort Sam Houston and one that was attended by thirteen Medal of Honor recipients and several military leaders. Today, the organization visits several schools in the San Antonio area to include, Terrell Hills Middle School and Roy Benavidez Elementary School. Once a month members of the organization also meet with young people on probation at the Bexar

County Court House. For an hour, probationers and the students at the schools will hear about duty, honor, courage, selfless sacrifice and personal military experiences from members of VAVAD who are either retired military, veterans or on active duty. Rocco often attended these meetings himself and talked about the first seventeen years of his life before joining the Army. After meeting at the courthouse, those who attend can talk to recruiters from the various military branches and see if they too can join the military and perhaps, like Rocco, build a future for themselves and others.

In Rocco's eyes there are no bad children, just misguided children who, just like him, need a little encouragement guidance, discipline and someone who will listen to them. His boundless energy and devotion to veterans and our youth will continue for generations to come, as the programs he initiated will be carried on by those he inspired during his life, and those who will come to know about him in the future.

Many of us who had the honor of knowing Rocco looked upon him as our "padrino" or "godfather," and his passing will leave a great void in our lives. We will miss you Richard. Your honor, courage selfless sacrifice and devotion to duty will never be forgotten.

Source: AMEDD Regiment Office.



Photo by Nelia Schrum

Medal of Honor recipient Louis R. Rocco visits with Gloria Acosta, the Veterans Against Violence and Drugs, and Capt. Danny Castillo, who assembled the Medal of Honor display for the "Veteranos" production.

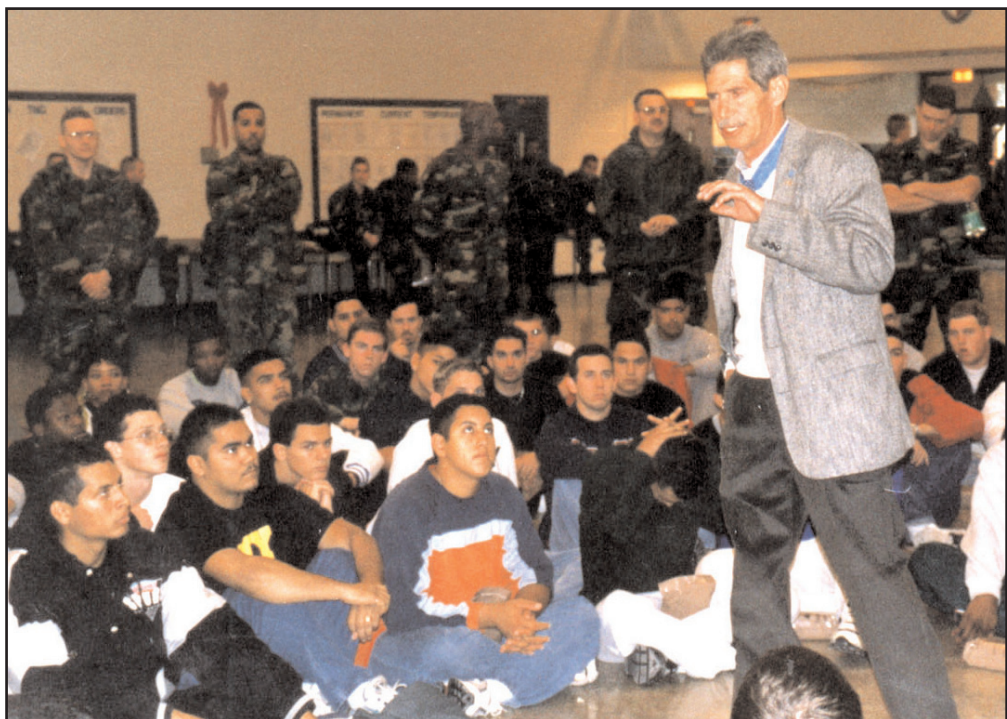


Photo by Jennifer Rodriguez

Medal of Honor recipient Louis Richard Rocco meets with Delayed Entry Soldiers at Camp Bullis to encourage and mentor them.



Photo by Ed Dixon

Lita Saiz Rocco accepts the folded flag presented to her by Brig. Gen. Daniel F. Perugini following full military honors services for her son, Louis R. Rocco, at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Nov. 4.



Photo by Ed Dixon

Several hundred members of the military and civilian community braved the cold and rain to pay their final respects to Medal of Honor recipient Louis R. Rocco at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on Monday.

'Celebrate America's Military Week,' kickoff



Photo by Esther Garcia

Left to right, Joe Krier, President and CEO, Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, Marty Wender, Chairman of the Board, Lt. Gen. Freddy McFarren, commander, 5th U.S. Army, Judge Nelson Wolff, Bexar County Judge, and Thad Ziegler, Chairman for Celebrate American's Military Week committee, following the opening ceremony of "Celebrate America's Military Week" held Nov. 4. On behalf of all the military, McFarren accepted the Chamber's resolution honoring members of the Armed Forces, past and present, throughout San Antonio by observing Celebrate America's Military Week.



Photo by Esther Garcia

Commander, Center Brigade. Col. Maureen Coleman, WWII retired Navy Lt. Violette Rosen, Sampson Rush, Command Sgt. Maj., Center Brigade and Kenneth Russell, Command Sgt. Maj., BAMC at the opening ceremony of "Celebrate America's Military Week." Coleman said Rosen paved the way for the opportunity for her to choose the military a career.

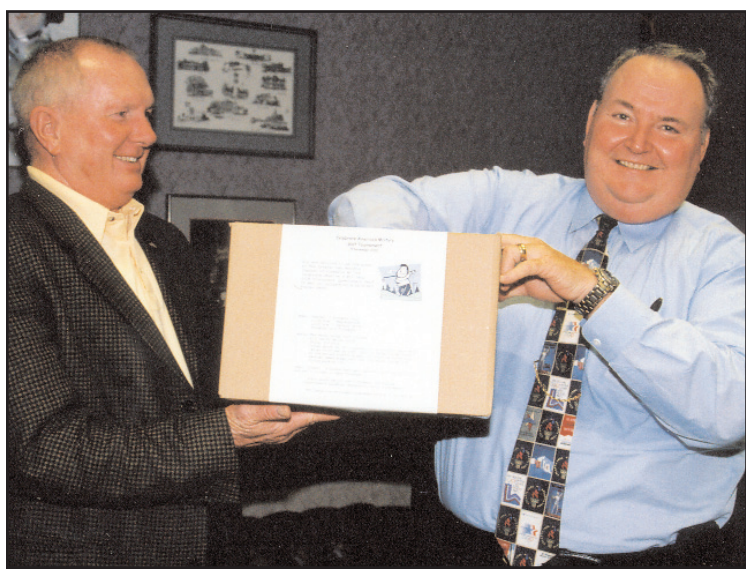


Photo by Esther Garcia

Left to right, Les Walters, chief, Recreation and Fitness keeps a close eye on Jim Evetts, Director, Community Activities Business Center, as he selects names for the Golf Tournament sponsored by the Greater Chamber of Commerce. Sixteen members from the FSH community were invited to participate at the tournament, held Nov. 5.



Photo by Esther Garcia

Command Sgt. Maj. Herman Hertog, Command Chief Master Sgt. at the 59th Medical Wing, Lackland AFB, shares his military experience with student trainees from 232nd Medical Battalion who attended the opening ceremony. Other events scheduled during "Celebrate America's Military Week" are the AUSA Luncheon, Nov. 8, Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 9, downtown San Antonio, and on Nov. 11th, the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, 9:30 a.m. and the Buffalo Soldiers Veterans Day Ceremony at the San Antonio Cemetery starting at 1:30 p.m.

Local Army supporter suits up with the Golden Knights

By Edward Rivera
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

If you had to jump out of a perfectly good airplane, strapped to a parachutist, who better to jump with than the U.S. Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights. During the parachute team's rehearsal for Lackland Air Force Base's first air show, AirFest 2002, local civic leader and Army supporter, Janice Ricks would be joining the Golden Knights making a tandem jump.

The Tandem Orientation Program chooses local and national celebrities, teachers, civic leaders and recruiters to experience the thrill of freefall and parachute canopy control while under the supervision of a highly trained member of the Golden Knights. But before she could freefall from 12,500 feet and glide into the landing zone, there were few safety and equipment briefings she had to undertake.

After arriving at Lackland on a crisp Friday morning Golden Knight Tandem Instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Mike Elliott, briefed Ricks on the possible hazards of a tandem jump. But Elliott quickly eased Ricks by telling her he had made more than 800 tandem jumps and more than 3,000 solo jumps. "The thrill of jumping and floating free is an exhilarating experience," said Elliott. "Every time I jump it's just as exciting as the first time."

The idea of jumping out of an airplane came for Ricks after she was certified to scuba dive when a friend told her all she needed to do was to sky dive. According to Ricks, she was supposed to jump with the Golden Knights during Fiesta Celebration last year, but wind conditions precluded the tandem jump from happening.

"I've never enjoyed anything more than working with the United States Army," said Ricks. "This is the most thrilling of anything I have ever done and I'm so excited."

As the morning progressed, Elliott completely briefed Ricks on the equipment, safety precautions and proper body positions for freefalling and landing. Shortly after Ricks donned her jumping attire, she was on her way to the Golden Knights' C-31A Friendship aircraft. Along for the ride were several news media representatives who were there to preview the teams appearance at the air show.

After making several orbits at 2,000 feet to check wind direction, the Golden Knights and Ricks were on their way to 12,500 feet. But as they climbed higher, the cloud cover got thicker so they stopped at 10,000 feet. After several orbits the decision was made to drop to 3,000 feet where the parachute team would jump. After the team leaped from the plane, it climbed toward 6,000 feet

but after reports from the jumpers that the ground winds were not favorable for a tandem jump, Ricks' jump was canceled.

"Well I'm disappointed but I understand that safety always comes first. At least this time I got closer than the last time." Ricks was just about to the door of the aircraft when the final decision to

cancel the tandem jump was made. Well it looks like the U.S. Army Parachute Team will be back for the next Fiesta Celebration; perhaps for Janice Ricks the third time will be a charm.

For more information on the Golden Knights and their Tandem Orientation Program check out their website at www.armygoldenknights.com.



Photo by Edward Rivera

A U.S. Army Parachute Team member straps local civic leader Janice Ricks to Sgt. 1st Class Mike Elliott, tandem instructor and veteran of more than 800 tandem jumps. Ricks was supposed to jump with the Golden Knights but was unable to due to unfavorable weather conditions.

Six NCOs retire after more than a century of service to the nation



Photo by Ed Dixon

Left to right, Sgt. Guannetta M. Briggs, Sgt. 1st Class Randall E. Bennit, Sgt. 1st Class Johnny D. Villalobos, Jr., Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Rosario-Rosas, Sgt. 1st Class Rodney R. Robertson, and First Sgt. Melanie R. Higgins pose for photo following a consolidated retirement ceremony held at MacArthur Field Oct. 31.

During the monthly Consolidated Retirement/Review ceremony held Oct. 31 at MacArthur Field, the following six noncommissioned officers officially retired from active duty:

First Sergeant Melanie R. Higgins, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, retired Oct. 31 following 23 years of military service.

A Chicago, Ill. Native, Higgins completed Basic Training at Fort McClellan, Ala. and Advanced Individual Training as an Orthopedic Specialist at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Colo. Her first assignment in 1980 was at MEDDAC, Fort Knox, Ky. where she worked in the Orthopedic Clinic Cast room.

In 1986, she was assigned to 2nd General Hospital, Landstuhl, Germany where she worked as NCOIC of the Cast room. Upon completion of her first overseas tour Higgins was assigned to Brooke Army Medical Center in 1990, where she worked as the NCOIC of the Orthopedic Clinic and Phase II Instructor for the Orthopedic Specialist Phase II course and later the BAMC Master Fitness NCO.

In 1995, Higgins was transferred to E 801st MSB, Fort Campbell, Ky. where she was assigned as treatment platoon sergeant and later served as first sergeant of E Company. She was later assigned to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center where she served as the Troop Command first sergeant. Higgins then transferred to C Company, Academy Battalion where she was assigned as Operations NCO for the Department of Medical Science. Higgins is a graduate of the Primary Leadership and Development Course, the Basic and Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Course, and the First Sergeants Course.

Her awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Air Assault Badge and the Expert Field Medical Badge. Higgins is married to Sgt. Maj. Tyrome Higgins and they have three children.

Sergeant First Class Rodney R. Robertson, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School will retire following 23 years of military service effective March 1, 2003.

Robertson completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. and Advanced Individual Training as a Combat Medic at Fort Sam Houston. His first duty assignment, in 1983, was B Company, 7th Medical Battalion at Fort Ord, Calif., where he worked as a medic, armorer, and supply NCO. In 1986, Robertson attended the 91 C Practical Nurse Course at Fort Lewis, Wash. and graduated in July 1987.

Upon completion of the Practical Nurse Course, Robertson was assigned to Reynolds Army Community Hospital, Fort Sill, Okla., where he worked as an intensive care nurse. In 1988, he was assigned to the First Hospital Unit, 47th Field Hospital, Fort Sill, Okla., where he served as the minimal care ward master, training NCO and was deployed to Desert Shield/Storm. While deployed to Desert Shield/Storm, Robertson served as the Operation's NCO and NCOIC of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical teams. In 1992, he was assigned to the 547th General Dispensary, Grafenwoehr, Germany as the nursing NCO and Clinic NCOIC.

In 1995, Robertson was assigned to MEDDAC, Fort Hood, Texas as a practical nurse in the recovery room. In 1996, Robertson was assigned to the Nursing Education Branch as an instructor and then as the NCOIC. In 1998, he was assigned to B Company, Academy Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, as NCOIC of Phase I of the Practical Nurse Branch. In 1999, he was assigned as the NCOIC of the Practical Nurse Course.

Robertson's military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course. He has also completed the Emergency Medical Technician Course, the Unit Supply Course, the Medical Supply Course, the Unit Armorer Course, the Light Fighters Course, the Air Load Planners Course, the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Course, the Chemical Casualty Course, the Faculty Development Course, the Small Group Leader Course, and the Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Course.

His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct

Medal (6th award), the National Defense Service Medal (2nd award), the NCO Development Ribbon (3rd award), the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Driver's Badge, and the Marksmanship Badge.

Robertson is married to the former Lisa Renee Smith and they have five children.

Sergeant First Class Benjamin Rosario-Rosas, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School retired Oct. 31 following 20 years of military service.

Rosario-Sosa completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Okla. and Advanced Individual Training as a Combat Medic and as a Pharmacy Specialist at Fort Sam Houston. His first duty assignment, in 1983, was to the Chemical School, Fort McClellan, Ala., where he worked as an instructor. In 1986, he was assigned to the Medical Department Activity at West Point, N.Y., with duties as Pharmacy NCO in Keller Army Community Hospital.

In 1988, he was assigned to the 15th Evacuation Hospital at Fort Polk, La., as Pharmacy Section NCOIC. While at this unit he deployed to Saudi Arabia and participated in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 1992, he was assigned to USAREUR, 7th MEDCOM, as NCOIC of the 98th General Hospital in Nuremberg, Federal Republic of Germany. While in USAREUR he deployed to Zagreb, Croatia with the UN forces, in support of Operation Provide Promise.

Upon completion of his overseas tour in 1994, Rosario-Sosa was assigned to the 86th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Campbell, Ky., where he served as platoon sergeant, and later as senior pharmacy NCO. In 1998, he was assigned to the Army Medical Department Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, as an instructor and section NCOIC within the Pharmacy Branch, Academy of Health Sciences. His final duty assignment was a Material Acquisition NCO in the Directorate of Combat Development, Fort Sam Houston.

Rosario-Sosa's military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, the Basic Leadership Development Course, and the Advance Noncommissioned Officer Course, the Air Assault Course, and the Faculty Development Course. He has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tenn., and a Master of Science Degree from Long Island University, Brookville, N.Y.

His military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Good Conduct Medal (6th award) the National Defense Service Medal (2nd award) the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Armed Forces Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the (Kuwait Liberation Medal Kuwait and Saudi Arabia), the SWASM with three stars, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Expert Field Medical Badge and Air Assault Badge. He is a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

He is married to the former Sonia M. Duran and they have three children.

Sergeant First Class Randall E. Bennit, Brooke Army Medical Center will retire following 23 of distinguished military service effective March 1, 2003.

Bennit completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Bliss, Texas and Advanced Individual Training as a medical specialist at Fort Sam Houston. His first duty assignment, in 1983, was Silas B. Hays Army Community Hospital, Fort Ord, Calif., where he worked on the med-surg floor and the Allergy/Immunization Clinic as the assistant NCOIC. In 1985, Bennit went to 91C school at Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Upon completion of 91C school in 1986, Bennit was assigned as the assistant NCOIC on the medical surgical floor of the 97th General Hospital, Frankfurt, Germany. Upon fulfillment of his overseas tour, he was transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center, where he served as NCOIC of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit.

In 1995, Bennit was assigned to the 86th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Campbell, Ky. as platoon sergeant for the 8 Intensive Care Units, with subsequent assignment to housing as the assistant NCOIC. In 2001, he was transferred to BAMC, where he served as NCOIC of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, NCOIC of Critical Care, and as an assistant Trauma Coordinator.

His military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course.

Bennit's military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with star, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Expert Field Medical Badge.

He is married to the former Melody Ritter and they have four children.

Sergeant First Class Johnny D. Villalobos, Jr., Regional Headquarters Allied Forces North Europe, Brunssum, Netherlands retired Nov. 1 following 23 years of military service.

Villalobos completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Knox, Ky. and Advanced Individual Training as a Combat Telecommunications Operator at Fort Gordon, Ga. His first duty assignment, in 1983, was with Detachment 2, 44th Signal Battalion, West Germany, where he worked as a Digital Subscriber Telegraph Equipment Operator.

Upon completion of his first overseas tour in 1985, Villalobos was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 224th Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation), Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga., with multiple deployments to Palmerola Air Base, Honduras. In 1988, after successful completion of the U.S. Army Recruiter Course, Staff Sergeant Villalobos was assigned to Porterville Recruiting Station, Porterville Calif., Fresno Recruiting Company, Sacramento Recruiting Battalion.

In 1990, he was transferred to A Company, 97th Signal Battalion, Mannheim, West Germany, where he

Multinational environment challenges Texas Marines



A French paratrooper (right) visits with (clockwise) Recon Marines Sgt. Ezel Garcia, San Antonio; Sgt. Jeffrey Wolan, Jefferson, La.; and Sgt. Jason Lewis, Denver, prior to a jump during Cooperative Key 2002 in France.



Recon Marine Sgt. Darren Smiley, Dallas, uses binoculars to spot incoming aircraft as Lance Cpl. Oscar Guerrero, San Antonio, looks on during close air support training in France.



Recon Marine Lance Cpl. Steven Sanford, Humble, Texas, gets his parachute rig checked out by Recon Marine Sgt. Jack Harris, San Antonio, prior to jump.

Story and photos by Cpl. Jeff Hawk
4th Marine Division

Reconnaissance Marines headquartered in San Antonio, Texas blended into the French countryside as part of a two-week-long North Atlantic Treaty Organization exercise, Sept. 21 – Oct. 5. Twenty-four Marines and two Navy corpsmen from 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, joined 1,600 military personnel from 10 NATO countries and 12 NATO-friendly Partnership for Peace nations during Cooperative Key 2002. The exercise took place near Saint Dizier Air Base, about 120 miles east of Paris.

Designed to promote dialogue and interoperability between participating nations, the exercise challenged Marines’ ability to work in a multinational environment. “These Marines learned to work with other countries and overcome the language barriers that come with working with a multinational task force,” said Huntsville, Texas native Staff Sgt. Kyle Hood, the unit’s platoon sergeant. The exercise’s fictitious scenario revolved around enemy forces infiltrating an airfield that NATO wanted to seize to provide refugee support for civilians displaced during a civil conflict.

Event leaders tasked two Marine recon teams to get eyes on the airfield and provide information needed to determine the enemy’s size and capabilities prior to a NATO-led assault. A Croatian helicopter crew inserted the Marines and Navy corpsmen into a landing zone roughly 20 kilometers from the airfield. Over the next two days, two teams navigated their way through unfamiliar French countryside to their separate objectives.

“The training we’ve had is the most real-world I’ve experience,” said Recon Marine Cpl. Jason Gomez of San Antonio, Texas. “Crossing fields and coming across towns is something we’re going to have to deal with if we’re required for battle.” Avoiding detection proved challenging, echoed Cpl. Patrick Brady, of Lawrence, Kan. “If you encountered anybody, you could be compromised on the spot. We had foreign maps. Nobody speaks the language. You could definitely get the feeling that you were not in the United States anymore.”

The teams hunkered down in wooded areas during the day and traveled by night to minimize exposure. Livestock, electric fences, rifle-toting hunters and the pitch-blackness of moonless nights

made traveling precarious. Enemy forces played by French air commandos patrolled the airfield using dogs to try to sniff out the Marines. Still, the Marines prevailed. “We hit our objective without being caught or seen,” said point man Sgt. Darren Smiley, a Dallas-based Recon Marine.

The exercise culminated in an airborne assault of the airfield. Marines accompanying U.S. Air Force and foreign paratroopers linked up with the undetected recon teams shortly after securing the airfield. The exercise seemed to confirm NATO’s effectiveness. “I’ve been impressed with the way NATO has developed a series of standard operating procedures that allow different countries with diverse languages to interact with each other on a very standard basis,” said Capt. Nicholas Taylor, platoon commander, Dallas, Texas.

“The ability to talk to each other and understand what we’re trying to do is probably the best training we were able to get,” said Capt. Marcus Bowers, battalion air officer from Batesville, Ark. Bowers led a close air support training evolution, which allowed Marines to call in simulated bomb strikes from French, Turkish and U.S. fighter aircraft. “This is a very difficult environment. The Marines have to learn to speak the same language as the pilots,” said Bowers.

Marines shared and picked up new tricks from other foreign units. “People are going to master different equipment and use it differently and that will involve techniques you may have never thought of,” said Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Christ, company first sergeant, Carrollton, Texas.

For many Marines, the exercise underscored the way future wars will be fought. “It’s going to take multinational cooperative efforts to secure peace and freedom throughout the world,” said Cpl. Brian Stansell, the unit’s acting platoon communications chief from Austin, Texas. “If people can’t communicate, if they haven’t worked together before, it will be that much more difficult.”

Cooperative Key 2002 emphasized the need to take training seriously. “Do your job and do it right. Focus on the little things. Don’t get into the mentality that this is just training. That attitude can get you killed faster than anything,” said Brady.



NCOs look to new horizons, following retirement ceremony

From *Retirees* Page 24

served as Tactical Switching Systems platoon sergeant. In 1992, he was transferred to his first NATO International Joint Command at Headquarters, Land Forces Central Europe, Heidelberg, Germany, as NCOIC, Computer Hardware Repair Facility. Upon completion of his second overseas tour in 1994, he was transferred to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Signal Brigade, Fort Huachuca, Ariz. with duty in the Brigade S3 as the Record Telecommunications Network Engineer.

In 1996, he was transferred to his second NATO International Joint Command assignment at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Casteau, Belgium, as Telegraph, Automatic Relay, Equipment, Shift Supervisor. After completing his third overseas tour in 1999, he accepted a continuous overseas tour, transferring to his fourth overseas tour and his third and final NATO International Joint Command at Regional Headquarters Allied Powers North Europe, Brunssum, Netherlands, with duties as a Communications Security Custodian.

Villalobos military education includes

the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course, U.S. Army Recruiter Course, Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course, Unit Equal Opportunity Leaders Course, and the NATO Communications Security Custodian Course. He has earned an Associates of Arts degree in Management Studies from the University of Maryland University College, European Division.

His military awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Good Conduct Medal with Silver Knot, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with four tours, the Air Assault Badge, the Expert Marksmanship Badge for the M16A2 Rifle and the M9 Pistol, and the Silver German Schuetzenschnur Marksmanship Braid.

Sergeant Guannetta M. Briggs, Brooke Army Medical Center, retires following 18 years of military service is effective Nov. 7.

Briggs completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. and Advanced Training as a Medic and Practical Nurse at Fort Sam Houston. Upon completion of her overseas tour USAREUR, Briggs was assigned to B Company, Academy Battalion as an instructor and later to A Company BAMC as a Practical Nurse.

Her military and civilian education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, SGITC and Faculty Development

Course. She has earned a BA in teaching from Dillard University, New Orleans, La., and a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Tulane University, New Orleans, La. She is currently pursuing a law degree.

Her military awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with star, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

She is married to Paul H. Briggs and they have one daughter and one grandson.

Marines Corps 227th anniversary

The Marines will celebrate the 227th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps during a birthday ball on Nov. 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Tickets are \$20 per person. For information call Gunnery Sgt. Reuben Salas at (210) 223-1551 ext. 338. The public is invited.

Be prepared for holiday travel with TRICARE

At this time of year many families will be traveling home for the holidays or taking vacations. For whatever reason you travel, whether within the United States or to a foreign country, TRICARE can help with the health care needs you may have while on the road.

Emergency Care

If you or a family member encounter an emergency situation while traveling, TRICARE Prime will cover your medical care. An emergency is a medical or psychiatric condition that would lead an average, non-medical person to believe that lack of immediate medical attention would threaten life, limb or sight. Emergency care is also appropriate to relieve severe pain or suffering.

If you are confronted with an emergency while traveling, seek immediate care at the nearest hospital emergency room. Be sure to contact your Primary Care Manager (PCM) should follow-up care be necessary. Also contact the

Health Care Finder (HCF) at (800) 406-2832, within 24 hours, to initiate a record of the care you are receiving. This and keeping all receipts and other documents related to the care you receive will ensure proper and quick payment of your claim after you return home.

Urgent Care

For urgent but non-emergency conditions while traveling, you will need to contact a HCF before you receive care at a military or a civilian facility. If you use a civilian provider and a prior authorization for urgent care is not received from the HCF, you will be billed under the Point-of-Service (POS) option. This means your will pay a higher cost-share and deductible. It is also recommended that you notify your PCM that you have seen another physician soon after you have received care.

Prescription Medication

Use the National Mail Order Pharmacy (NMOP) before you leave

home and you can avoid running out of medicine while you're away. Through the NMOP you can receive up to a 90-day supply of most medications. For additional information, call NMOP at (800) 903-4680 or visit www.merck-medco.com.

When traveling within your region, pay only the copayment by using a network pharmacy. If you need to fill a prescription while outside of your TRICARE region, you will need to pay the entire amount and then seek reimbursement from TRICARE when you return home. To obtain claim forms on the Internet visit www.TRICARE.osd.mil/claims.

Health Care Information

If you are traveling and find yourself confronted with a medical condition that does not require emergency or urgent care, TRICARE may still be able to help. You can quickly and easily access information on many health care topics

through the Health Care Information Line (HCIL). By calling (800) 611-2875, you can listen to over 500 recorded health topics through the AudioHealth Library® or if necessary, speak to a nurse. Note: To access the HCIL in other countries (not toll-free outside the USA) contact your long-distance telephone company, prior to leaving on your trip, to obtain the USA Direct Access Code for the country you will be visiting

For added peace of mind whenever you leave home, carry the TRICARE travel brochure. To obtain a copy, contact a Customer Service Representative at (800) 406-2832 or download a copy from our Web site at www.hnfs.net.



Inpatient rates increase slightly for fiscal year 2003

Effective Oct. 1, 2002, the daily cost of inpatient care in civilian hospitals for family members of active duty service members under TRICARE Standard and Extra increased from \$11.90 to \$12.72 per day or \$25, whichever is greater. For example, if a family member of an active duty service member is an inpatient for one day, he or she will pay \$25. For inpatient stays that are two days or more, the cost will be \$12.72 per day.

The TRICARE Standard diagnosis-

related group (DRG) daily rate for most civilian non-mental health hospital admissions increased to \$417, up from \$414 last year. The rate increase applies only to retirees, their families and survivors who use TRICARE Standard. They either pay the fixed daily rate of \$417, or a cost share of 25 percent of the hospital's billed charges, whichever is less. They also pay 25 percent of the allowable charge for separately billed professional services. There is no DRG

rate increase for beneficiaries who use a TRICARE network facility under TRICARE Extra. Rates for inpatient mental health care or a substance-use disorder will increase from \$154 to \$159 per day for retirees, their families and survivors who use TRICARE Standard. They also pay 25 percent of the allowable charge for separately billed professional services. The inpatient mental health rate is unchanged for family members of active duty serv-

ice members, military retirees, their families and survivors in TRICARE Prime and Extra. For additional information about DRG payments, interested parties may contact the nearest beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator (BCAC). A BCAC directory is available online at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/BCACDirectory.htm> . Beneficiaries also may contact a customer service representative at the nearest TRICARE service center.

Partner with pharmacists, make the most of your medications

Over 50 percent of Americans don't take their medication as directed. Take the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Pharmacy Care Quiz at www.GetRxHealthy.com to check your medication IQ and get instant tips on how to partner with your pharmacist to improve your health. It was recently revealed that while this country spent more than \$144 billion on prescription medicines in 2000, another \$177 billion was spent fixing problems associated with the use of prescription medications. In contrast, a three-year study of nearly 400 patients discovered that when patients partnered with their pharmacists, physicians and other healthcare providers, over 90 percent took their medication correctly as prescribed by

their doctors. Of the nearly 400 respondents being treated for high cholesterol, for example, the majority reached and maintained nationally recognized goals for treating their condition. Fortunately, there are five things you can do to stay on the right side of the statistics:

- If you have a question about your medication, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Get all of your prescriptions filled at the same pharmacy so your complete medical history will be on file; let the pharmacist know every medication, herbal remedy or vitamin you take.
- When you get prescriptions refilled, make sure the medicine looks exactly the same as it did the last time. If not, ask

why.

- If you see more than one doctor, let each know what the other prescribes.
- Read all the information you receive about your medications and learn all the names of the drugs you take.

Says pharmacist and syndicated columnist Suzy Cohen, "When people don't take their medication the right way they put their lives at risk. Taking time to read the label of your prescriptions and

know about the drugs you take can keep you well."

You can take an online quiz to see how much you know about taking medicine, at www.GetRxHealthy.com.

Your pharmacist can help you understand how the medications you've been prescribed can do you the most good.

Source: North American Precise Syndicate, Inc.

BAMC Influenza Program

Brooke Army Medical Center will continue to conduct its Annual Influenza (Flu) program on the remaining dates, locations, and times. Since Flu Vaccinations last for 3 to 4 months after receiving them, it is recommended that you receive your immunization during the months of November and December. Please note who is eligible to receive the vaccine on the dates listed.

Nov. 5 thru 7 - Active Duty personnel only at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797 in the auditorium from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 12 thru 15 - Active Duty personnel, family members 18 years or older, DoD civilians and retirees at the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center located off Binz-Engleman Road in the auditorium, Room 138 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 18 thru 21 - Active Duty personnel, family members 18 years or older, DoD civilians and retirees at the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center located off Binz-Engleman Road in the auditorium, Room 138 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dec. 2 thru 5 - Active Duty Personnel, family members over the age of 18, retirees, and DoD civilians at the BAMC Medical Mall next to the Urgent Care Clinic from 8 a.m. to noon.

Flu vaccinations last for 3 to 4 months. We recommend that you receive your immunization during the months of November or December.



Health Promotion Center November Class Schedule

Class	Date	Time
Stress Management	12	11-12 a.m.
Office Yoga	13	12-1 p.m.
Osteoporosis	13	6-7 p.m.
Self Care & Health	14	1-3 p.m.
Body Fat Testing	15	8-11 a.m.
Cholesterol & Lipids	18	9-11:30 a.m.
COPD Part 1	18	1-4 p.m.
Arthritis	19	9:30-11 a.m.
Diabetes Education	19	12:45-4:30 p.m.
High Blood Pressure	20	9-12 a.m.
Office Yoga	20	12-1 p.m.
Fibromyalgia Support Group	20	1-3:30 p.m.
Self Care & Health	21	9-11 a.m.
Tobacco Relapse Intervention Program (TRIP)	21	11-12 a.m.
Breast Health	22	11-12 a.m.
Diabetes Education	26	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Office Yoga	27	12-1 p.m.



Schedule Diabetes Education through Internal Medicine Clinic, 916-0840 (even if you are in Tricare Prime), select Option 2. Appointments for the Fibromyalgia Self-Help series requires a consult to the Behavioral Medicine Clinic. Schedule Weight Management through the Nutrition Care Division at 916-5525.

The cost of DWI is high, you can't afford it!

As the holiday season nears, it's a good time to reflect on the perils of drinking at parties and then getting behind the wheel. It's not just risking the life of the driver and that of others on the road; it's also risking the end of a career. Drunk drivers are caught. They may not realize it but a driver who has been drinking practically broadcasts that fact to police, whether through excessive speed, swerving, even overly cautious driving and line hugging, and of course the smell of alcohol when they roll down the window to present IDs to police.

Today's police officers have excellent tools and receive extensive training enabling them to detect and apprehend intoxicated drivers. The Standardized Field Sobriety Test is nationally recognized and is used by all law enforcement personnel to assist in the detection of intoxicated drivers. The test consists of the horizontal gaze-nystagmus test, the walk and turn test, and the one leg stand test. When drivers have been apprehended and transported to the Military Police station, they are informed of their right to submit to a test to measure the alcohol content of their body. If individuals consent to the test, the breath is tested using the Intoxilyzer 5000 Instrument. The test is usually performed at Fort Sam

Houston by police officers that are certified to administer the test. An individual is titled for Driving While Intoxicated based on the officer's observations and test results. If they refuse, they are titled with DWI. Either way, it is a no win situation. A very similar process occurs when the SAPD or other civilian police authorities conduct a DWI stop.

Seventy-three individuals have been apprehended for DWI on Fort Sam Houston since January 2002. In each instance the driver, whether a service member, family member, or unaffiliated civilian, faced significant and potentially career-ending adverse actions. Army Regulation 190-5 requires the suspension of installation driving privileges for one year for anyone apprehended for DWI. Additionally, Army Regulation 190-5 requires the issuance of a general officer memorandum of reprimand for soldiers who are corporal and above. Even in the case of junior enlisted where a reprimand is not required, it is still an option available to the command. Civilians apprehended for DWI may also be barred from Fort Sam Houston for five years, unless they live or work here. If they live here,

they may face loss of housing. If they work here, they may face employment actions.

A soldier who is DWI is in violation of Article 111 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Article 111 defines drunk or impaired as, "any intoxication, which is sufficient to impair the rational and full exercise of the mental or physical faculties."

Soldiers may receive an Article 15 or be court-martialed for DWI. At a court-martial, if there is no personal injury involved, a soldier faces the maximum punishment of a Bad-conduct Discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for six months. If there is personal injury involved, a soldier faces a maximum punishment of a Dishonorable Discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for 18 months. A further consequence that may be triggered by the sentence is reduction to private.

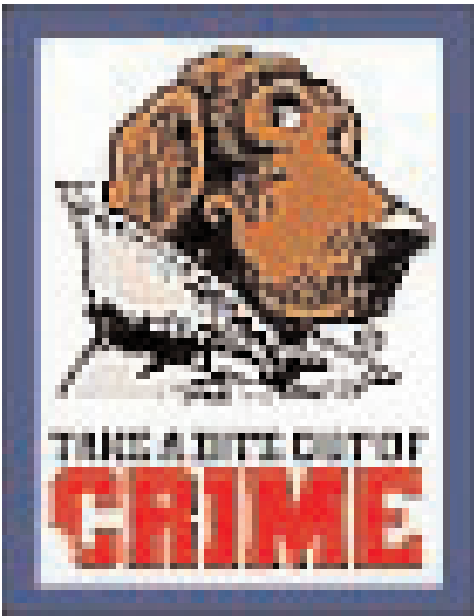
Civilians apprehended for DWI on Fort Sam Houston may be prosecuted in United States District Court using the Texas Penal Code. A person is DWI under the Texas Penal Code definition if that person operates a motor vehicle did

not have the normal use of their mental and physical faculties by reason of the introduction of alcohol into their body, and/or had an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more. The maximum punishment for a first offense DWI is a term of confinement not to exceed 180 days and a fine of \$2,000. The punishment on a DWI may be enhanced if the individual has had a prior DWI conviction within the last ten years. The maximum punishment for a second offense DWI is confinement not to exceed one year and a fine of \$4,000. The maximum punishment for a third offense DWI is imprisonment from 2 to 10 years and a fine of \$10,000.

Approximately 20,000 people lose their lives each year in alcohol related traffic accidents. Law enforcement personnel use the latest tools to detect and apprehend intoxicated drivers who are aggressively prosecuted. The cost of a DWI is high when you compare the fines, court costs, attorney fees, increased insurance costs, revocation of privileges, damaged or destroyed careers and possible loss of life or limb against the temporary euphoria experienced from the indulgence in alcoholic beverages. You just can't afford a DWI.



McGruff's Crime Report



Crime Trends

There were several reported property crimes on the installation during the past two weeks. At the PX, shoplifters attempted to steal over \$1,400 in DVDs, video games, DVD and video game players, perfume and clothes. Elsewhere on post, a computer was stolen from BAMC and checks were stolen from a barracks room and forged, for a loss of over \$2,000. There were two hit and run traffic accidents also reported. One occurred in the parking lot of Bldg. 591 and the other in the parking lot of BAMC. Most of the reported traffic accidents occur in the parking lots of BAMC and the PX. The majority of accidents in parking lots occur when cars are backing out of spaces. If you have any information about the hit and run accidents or any other crimes, please contact the Military Police at 221-2222. You can report crimes or suspicious activity anonymously at 221-CLUE.

Force Protection

If you observe anyone jumping over a perimeter fence, notify the military police immediately. Also, if you see a fuel truck that is stopped or parked in a location other than a fuel handling facility (i.e. a gas station) call the Military

Police. All Fort Sam Houston personnel need to maintain heightened security awareness.

Crime Prevention

The Military Police remind everyone to make sure your wallets, credit cards, checkbooks and other belongings are secured at all times. A thief can drain a checking account or make charges to a credit card within several hours, maybe even before you notice that they are missing. With the holiday shopping season just around the corner, don't leave your purse in your shopping cart. Men should be more cautious with their wallets when shopping in areas with large crowds.

With holiday vacations a few weeks away, remember to contact the Military Police and sign up for the House Watch program. Speaking of "watches", kudos to the residents of the Infantry Post housing area who are interested in starting a neighborhood watch in their housing area. If you are interested in starting a neighborhood watch in your housing community, contact the Crime Prevention Office at 221-9686. For those of you who live in the barracks or work in offices on Fort Sam Houston, you and your co-workers can join forces and initiate a "barracks" or "office" watch program.

Juvenile Curfew Hours

There have been several recent incidents of juveniles being apprehended for curfew violations. Just a reminder, curfew hours are as follows: Sunday through Thursday, 10 p.m. through 5 a.m., Friday and Saturday, midnight through 5 a.m. The curfew is for children 17 years of age and younger. The following examples may constitute a valid reason for minors being out during the designated hours: children accompanied by a parent or guardian, attending a school, religious or government sponsored activity, going to or coming from work.

Source: FSH Law Enforcement.

Hunting Safety Tips

The installation Safety Office provides information and these safety tips to Army Medical Department Center and School and the Fort Sam Houston personnel for hunting and shooting activities. Observing the safe practices while using firearms and bows will reduce the risk of injury to personnel and their families while hunting.

The tips listed are hunting practices outlined for use by all personnel and their families working on Fort Sam Houston and its satellite installations. All personnel and their families, while hunting at federal facilities, must comply with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of Army guidance.

Potential Hazards: Consequences of unsafe practices while hunting and other shooting activities could range from minor injuries to fatalities.

The most important aspects of hunting is safety. Here are a few safety tips all hunters need to adhere to and pass on to our younger hunters.

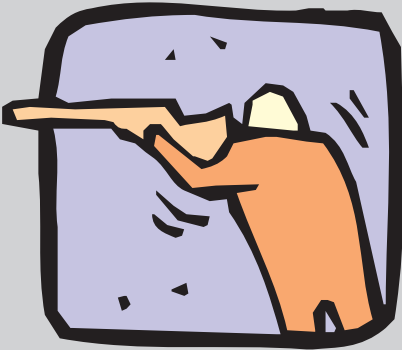
- Treat all weapons as if they are loaded and NEVER rely on the gun safety.
- NEVER point your firearm at anyone or anything you do not intend to shoot.
- NEVER shoot unless absolutely sure of your target and what might be beyond.
- NEVER practice shooting your weapon during a hunt. This should be done on a shooting range.
- NEVER cross a fence, climb a tree, enter a hunting stand, jump a ditch or stream with a loaded firearm.
- NEVER hoist a loaded firearm into your tree stand.
- Common sense is the best policy that you should ALWAYS adhere to while hunting.

- ALWAYS tell someone where you are going and when you plan on returning.
- ALWAYS unload your firearm before riding in a vehicle, boat, or ATV.
- ALWAYS be sure your barrel is free of obstructions.
- ALWAYS know your firearms effective range. Remember that wounded animals usually wonder off and die.
- ALWAYS dress for the weather.
- ALWAYS carry a flashlight, you never know when you may find yourself in the hours of darkness.
- ALWAYS remember that alcoholic beverages and firearm don't mix.

Additional assistance: Helpful references, information on training and the safety-training calendar can be found on the ISO Web site: www.cs.amedd.army.mil/iso under regulations and training.

For additional information, contact Guadalupe Gomez at 221-9882 or via e-mail at guadalupe.gomez@CEN.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL. Alternatively, contact Marty Dinivahi via e-mail at marty.dinivahi@amedd.army.mil or at 221-9872.

Remember that owning a firearm and participating in the great sport of hunting is a privilege not a right. Source: Installation Safety office.



FSH students celebrate Red Ribbon Week

Halls were decorated with student-created posters, contests were held, and special announcements were created just to capture students' attention. The message they received? The use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs is harmful to their bodies and negatively impacts every aspect of their overall health and welfare. Red Ribbon Week activities contained anti-drug messages being sent to students of all ages.

“Although our schools emphasize and promote a safe and drug-free school

environment throughout the year, Red Ribbon Week is a special time to focus our students' attention on these important issues,” stated Gail Siller, who coordinates the district's Safe and Drug-Free School program.

Activities were celebrated on both Fort Sam Houston Elementary School and Robert G. Cole Junior / Senior High School. One of the highlights of the week included Cole Junior High Student Council members producing and performing a game show entitled “A Teen's

Life in Jeopardy” for elementary students. Junior high students participating in the Jeopardy-like game show and program included the following: Kelly Bills, Jessica DeSimone, Clairissa Elizalde, Ariel Heath, Michele Ingari, and Lionel Lowery. Also, Analise Medina, Patrick Newcomer, Jacki Ordonez, Amy Reed, Gabby Ruiz, Nicole Salazar, Liset Santiago, and Heather Stephen participated. The Junior High Student Council is sponsored by Cole English teacher Kelly

Palmer. The game show encouraged audience participation, with the elementary students either cheering correct responses or booing bad choices. At the contest's conclusion, students sang a song that had them on their feet and moving around before working in small groups with junior high students, who gave them an anti-drug coloring book they could take home. Source: FSH Independent School District office.

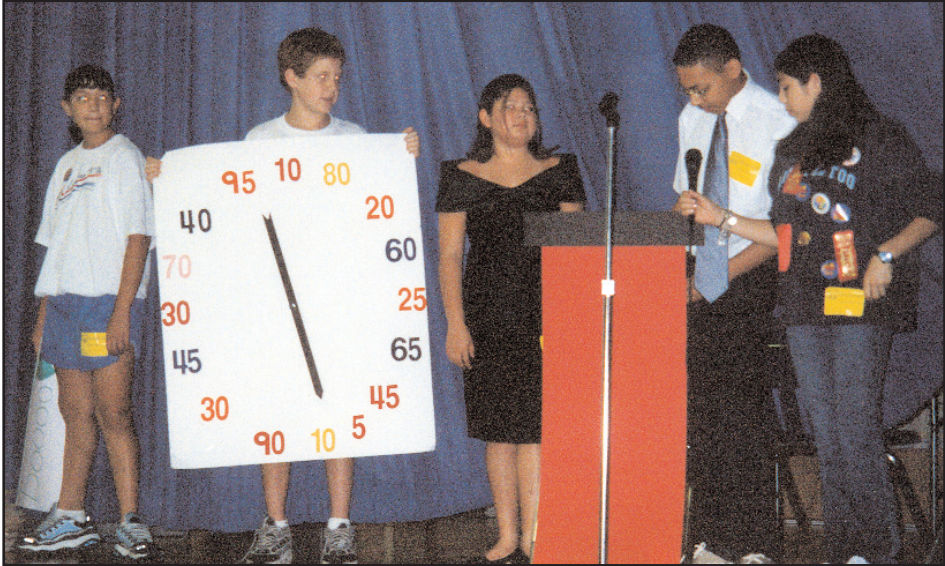


Photo by Gail Siller Junior High Student Council members (left to right) Gabby Ruiz, Patrick Newcomer, Nicole Salazar, Lionel Lowery, and Jackie Ordonez participate in the “Teen's Life in Jeopardy” game show for elementary students during Red Ribbon Week.



Photo by Gail Siller Jackie Ordonez (left) holds the microphone while Analise Medina (center) answers a question as fellow contestants Amy Reed (2nd from left) and Michele Ingari (right) observe.

Literary Pumpkin contest winners

By Gail Siller
Fort Sam Houston ISD

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School's seventh annual Literary Pumpkin Decorating Contest was a huge success this year with more than 63 pre-kindergarten through sixth grade students and their families participating. Sponsored by the elementary librarian, the Literary Pumpkin Contest allows students to use their creativity to decorate a pumpkin as their favorite literary character.

“The theme of this year's contest was ‘My Favorite Storybook Character,’” stated Cindy Riggs, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School librarian. “Students were encouraged to decorate pumpkins or gourds as creatively as they wished using paint, markers, fabric, or whatever materials worked to depict their character best.”

“We enjoy displaying the entries in the library, as they are all so creative,” added Riggs. “Our judges really have a hard time deciding the winners.”

Winning first place at the pre-kindergarten level was Vanessa Vasquez. Kindergarten winners included Jessica Morton, first place; Emily Banks, second place; and Anthony Trinidad, third place.

First grade winners included the following: Victoria Martinez, first place; Laurana Lehman, second place; and Scott Roan, third place. Second grade winners were Chrissy Hilbert, first place; Jason Yuille, second place, and Jackie Morton, third place.

At the third grade level, Sigfrid DeJesus won first place, James Hasewinkle earned second place, and Jasmine Ordonez won third place. Fourth grade winners included Janelle Jee, first place; Taylor Morton, second place; and Caroline Hilbert, third place.

Fifth grade winners included Matt Philbrick, first place; Linda Uribe, second place; and Shawon McMillie, third place. Alexandra Mazak earned first place honors at the sixth grade level.



Courtesy Photo Anthony Trinidad, a kindergarten student, holds his prize-winning entry in the Literary Pumpkin Contest.



Courtesy Photo Fourth grade Janelle Jee's first place winning entry was the owl from Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.



Courtesy Photo Shown here with her first place winning entry, second grader Chrissy Hilbert is all smiles.

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Weekly Campus Activities Nov. 11 - 16

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

Monday, Nov. 11
- Veterans Day – Holiday

Tuesday, Nov. 12
- Challenger Learning Center – 6th Grade only
- Parents deliver Science Fair Projects to Roadrunner – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 13
- Challenger Learning Center – 6th Grade only
- Science Fair at Roadrunner
- Public Viewing – 4 to 6 p.m.
- Award Presentation – 6 to 6:30 p.m.
- Take home projects – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 15
- Spirit Day

Robert G. Cole Jr. / Sr. High School

Monday, Nov. 11
- Veterans Day - Holiday

Tuesday, Nov. 12
- Third Six Weeks Begin

Wednesday, Nov. 13
- Cap and Gown Orders in Cafeteria – Advisory Period

Thursday, Nov. 14
- Grade 12 ASVAB Test in JROTC Building – 8 to 11 a.m.

Friday, Nov. 15
- Invitational Swim Meet II at NAT – 5 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 16
- JROTC Turkey Shoot at Rifle Range – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Recreation and Fitness

Women's Varsity Basketball Team- Players are needed for the women's basketball team. If we are unable to form a Women's Team the program will be cancelled. If you are interested in playing, call Earl Young at 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@amedd.army.mil.

Aerobics Classes - Join aerobics at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Yoga/Pilates are offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m. Free early morning Cardio Kick-boxing classes on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7 a.m.

Sunday morning class in Cardio Step 10 to 11:30 a.m. Patrons interested in attending a lunch time class on Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. are encourage to call Lucian at 221-2020.

5K Fun Run/Walk - This free event begins Nov. 9 at 10:15 a.m. in front of the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Participants will receive a free T-shirt.

This is a monthly event so sign up now for the next event. Call the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at 221-2020 for more information.

Run/Walk for your Life program - Get in shape and stay in shape with this self-paced, progressive distance running program. The three phase program includes the run/walk for your life program designed to improve the physical fitness and general health of participants. Call 221-2020 for more information.

60 Days of Fitness - A motivating fitness and nutritional program that helps you lose 15 pounds in 60 days safely using a point system and self-pace program. Workout 45 out of sixty days and receive a seven page fitness assessment which includes body fat analysis, body measurements and attend two 30 minute nutrition class presented by certified dieticians. Call 221-2020/1234 for more information.

Canyon Lake Recreation Area is Open - Canyon Lake activities have

resumed. Beach and Marine operations are back to normal. For reservations and information call (830) 964-3387.

Intramural Basketball - Coaches meeting will be held Nov. 12 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center and season starts Dec. 2.

Intramural Bowling - Letter of intent is due on Dec. 9. Coaches meeting will be held January 10, 2003 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center and season starts January 6, 2003. For more information on both events, call Earl Young at 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@amedd.army.mil.

Nov. 7 - The Fort Sam Houston Rangerettes women's basketball team will play Temple College at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Admission is free.

The 3rd Annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl will be held at the Alamodome January 5, 2003 at 8 a.m. Tickets are now on sale at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.

Lights on at FSH Golf Club Driving Range - The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club has installed a state of the arts lighting system that will allow patrons to hone up on their golf game well past normal daylight hours. The new lighting system will be in place and operational on Nov. 18, and the Driving Range will now be open until 9 p.m., seven days a week during Fall and winter. We anticipate summer hours to be extended until 11:30 p.m.

In addition to our state of the arts lighting system, the Club has procured two new Ball

Dispensing Machines that accept dollar bills and dispense new Wilson Driving Range golf balls. The cost for a small bucket of balls is still only \$2.

Golfers are invited to come out and hit some ball any evening, weather permitting, and beat those "Winter Blues," as well as improve your golf game.



Youth Happenings

Exploring Life for Middle School Students

Youth Services offers an after school program for Middle School youth grades 6-9 on Monday through Friday after school until 6 p.m. YS will pick up the student from school (either Elementary or the Jr./Sr. High School). The students are transported to the Youth Center, where they have a snack, work on homework, participate in clubs and do lots of fun innovative projects. This program is free for eligible students registered with Child and Youth Services, which is \$15, annually. For more information, call 221-3502.

The following classes are announced:

Dance Classes - Sign up now for the January sessions. Prices are \$28 per month for 50 minute classes and \$30 per

month for 60 minute classes.

Gymnastics Classes:
Tuesday
2:45-3:30 p.m. Preschool 2-4 year olds, 3:30-4:15 p.m. 3-5 year olds, 4-4:45 p.m. 6 years and older.

Thursday
4-5 p.m. 6 years and older, 5-6 p.m. Intermediate.

Fridays
4-5 p.m. 6 year old and up, Cody id \$30 for the 1st child, \$25 for the 2nd child.

Tae-Kwon-do Classes are held Monday and Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 per month for the 1st child and \$30 for the second child ages 6-18 years old.

Teen Talk - All teens are invited to attend Teen Talk every Thursday from 4-5 p.m. Teen talk is a group discussion

about all the topics that teens are interested in and want to talk about. The Family Advocacy program assists YS with this program. Come and join your friends at the Youth Center and get all the information you need to know.

Open Recreation is available every Saturdays, for youths in grades 1-12 at the Youth Center, Bldg. 1630 from 3-8 p.m. for grades 1-5, 3-10 p.m. for grades 6-8 and 3-11 p.m. for grades 9-12. All youth must be registered with Child and Youth Services and parents of those under 8 must sign them in and out of the building. We will have arts and crafts classes weekly, show movies, and have game tournaments with prizes. If you need to shop, or want to take an afternoon off and want to have your kids have a great time and be in a safe place, check with Youth Services.

Basketball Registration. Students in

grades 7 and 8 may register at the Youth Center through Nov. 12. The cost is \$55 per person. These 7th and 8th graders will be playing with the San Antonio Independent School District. Call 221-3502/5513 for more information.

Annual Youth Services Basketball Registration for youth ages 3-18 will take place from Monday Nov. 18 to Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. YS will be participating in the Spurs Drug Free League this year. The cost will be \$55 for the 1st child, \$50 for the 2nd and \$45 for the 3rd. Practice will begin in December and games will begin in January, 2003.



Fall Softball Standings Final

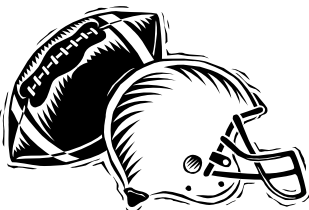
Place	W	L
5th Army	9	2
NCO Academy	8	2
DFAS	7	4
ITBC	5	5
Navy Recruiting	2	10
Navy & Marines	1	9



Fifth Army won the Fall Softball League beating NCO Academy 2 out 3 games during the season. The remainder of the season was cancelled due to the rain, but the playoffs will continue until Nov. 7, weather permitting. The games will be played at the Hacienda and Brigade Softball Fields at 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Intramural Flag Football Standings As of Oct. 23

Team	W	L
232nd Med Bn	9	0
BAMC	8	1
591st Med Log	4	3
DFAS	4	6
5th Recruiting	4	7
5th Army	1	8
NMCRC	1	8



Oct. 21			
BAMC	30	DFAS	0
BAMC	43	5th Army	0
5th Recruiting	22	NMCRC	0
Oct. 23			
BAMC	44	5th Army	0
232nd Med Bn	27	5th Recruiting	20

Army Community Service Family Advocacy ProgramClass Schedule November 2002

Class	Date	Time
Anger Mgmt Awareness	19	Noon - 1 p.m.
Basics of Breastfeeding	20	10:30 a.m. - Noon
Building Effective Anger Management Skills (BEAMS)	13, 20, 27	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Common Sense Parenting	4, 11 Dec	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Coping w/Difficult People	14	Noon - 1 p.m.
Divorce Care	12, 19, 26	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Duffel Bags for Babies	3, 10 Dec	
Family Advocacy	14	8 a.m. - Noon
Commander's Training		8 - 9:30 a.m.
Nurturing Program	13, 27	1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Playgroup	12, 19, 26	9 - 11 a.m.
Pregnancy and Childbirth	14	1 - 4 p.m.
Single Parent Support Group	21	9a.m. - Noon
Stress Management	21	Noon - 1 p.m.
Teen Talk	12	Noon - 1 p.m.
Women Encouraging Women	7, 14, 21	4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
	21	11 a.m. - Noon

Bring a brown bag lunch to classes scheduled during the hours of 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

To sign up for classes or for more information, call ACS Family Advocacy Program at 221-2334/9826.



Holiday Operating Schedule for November 2002

Officer’s Club
Open Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving Buffet)
Closed Nov. 29

JR’s Bar & Grill
Closed Nov. 27, 28 and 29

NCO Club
Closed Nov. 28 and 29

Golf Club
Closed Nov. 28


Bowling Center
Closed Nov. 27, 28 and 29
Open Nov. 30 at 1 p.m.

Harlequin Dinner Theatre
Closed Nov. 27 and 28

Lodging Branch
Will be minimally staffed during the holiday season

Career Clips

The Army Career and Alumni Program office provides numerous services to eligible people in transition including job assistance. Information on these and other positions is available to ACAP customers in the ACAP office, Bldg. 2264 or call 221-1213.



Executive Director, USO - San Antonio. Position manages all USO resources to serve our military in one of the most important missions in the world – taking care of the military in Military City, USA. Position vacant due to retirement of incumbent. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree and the starting salary is between \$40,000 - \$50,000 annually. E-mail resume to alamouso@alamouso.org or mail resume to: Search Committee, USO Council of San Antonio and Central Texas, 420 E. Commerce St, San Antonio, TX 78205.

Shift Data Center Supervisor - San Antonio. Responsible for providing processing support for both nightly processing cycle and production support to companies European and Asian offices. Requires experience in Data Processing (main-frame or equivalent) environment.

Technician Production I - Seguin. Perform analysis on products which have failed production testing, identify causes of failure and specify appropriate repairs and/or production process solutions.

LVN - San Antonio. Responsibilities include patient assessments, rooming patients, accessing ports, drawing blood, preparing charts, etc in a Phase I treatment area. Must have current TX licensure and CPR certification.

Hiring Assistant. San Antonio. Manager for military museum gift shop. Knowledge of retail/Internet/Word required. 30hr./wk. Call 225-0015 for appointment.

Fort Freebies



Freebies are published on a first come, first serve basis. Commercial advertisements are prohibited. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods and privately owned property, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve component military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. To submit paid classified ads or commercial advertising, contact Prime Time at 453-3300. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail to: news.leader@amedd.army.mil or fax to 221-1198. Ensure your military/Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name appears on request.

For Sale: 2001 KIA Sophia four door, automatic, AC, stereo, less than 10k miles, in perfect running condition with 8 1/2 years remaining on 10 year or 100,000 mile warranty, \$9,995. Call 566-3520.

For Sale: 1986 Kawasaki 1000R red motorcycle, 22,500 original miles, runs good. Has new paint job, front tire and service manuals, \$2,500. Call Mark 385-0205.

For Sale: Egyptian Maadi AK-47, Hi-Cap, original box and all accessories \$450, Russian SKS, Pre-Ban, all original, \$325, German hallway coat shrunk, \$125, Panasonic Microwave, \$35, Eureka bag less Vacuum, \$35. Dirt devil Vacuum, \$35. Call (210) 872-9308.

For Sale: Seven piece living room set, \$250. Call 227-5381.

For Sale: Guitar amplifier, 2 12 in. speakers, 2 channels, reverb, tremolo, foot switch, convenience outlets and external jacks. \$150. Call 945-4237 or 260-0854.

For Rent: Three bedrooms, two bath home, 15 min from FHS in a quiet neighborhood, good schools, garage, deck, fenced yard, \$790 per month. Call (210) 859-4439.

Free to a good home: Female six-month-old dog (cross between a Doberman and greyhound). She has all her shots. Call Eva at 682-8907 or 385-0415.

Wanted: 1990-1993 Honda Civic in good condition with working AC. E-mail: nyrabbet@juno.com or call (210) 646-7371.







Community events

Fiesta CME 2002, Nov. 7 – 10

The Naval Association of Physician Assistants and the Society of Air Force Physician Assistants present “Fiesta CME 2002” to be held at the Doubletree Hotel west of the airport in San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 7 to 10. Already approved for over 30 category one CME by the Academy of Physician Assistants, the conference will include the major topic of interest for the last National Commission for the Certification of Physician Assistants, Physician Assistant National Certification Examination. For more information refer to the following Web site: www.aapa.org/fiestacme.

2002 Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Nov. 8

The Marine Corps Detachment, Lackland AFB, will hold its annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball celebration on Nov. 8 at The Gateway Club, Lackland AFB beginning at 6 p.m. with a social hour, followed by the formal ceremony and the traditional birthday cake cutting and dinner. A DJ will provide dinner music, followed by dance music until 1 a.m. Dress for the event is formal for military or civilian. Tickets are \$30 per person and seating is limited. Tickets are currently on sale through Staff Sgt. Overley, Staff Sgt. Stone, or Sgt. Cervantes at the Marine Corps Detachment, Bldg. 10416, Lackland AFB, or call (210) 671-2567/3219.

Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 9

Floats, band, marching units, equestrian units and decorated vehicles will join the Veterans Day Parade Nov. 9 beginning at 1 p.m. through downtown San Antonio. The U.S. Military Veterans Parade Association sponsors the parade. The public is invited.

Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 11

The Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers’ Association will conduct their annual Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the San Antonio National Cemetery, 517 Paso Hondo (not FSH National Cemetery). The keynote speaker will be Brig. Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr., commander, Air Force Recruiting Service, Headquarters, Air Education and Training Command, Randolph, Air Force Base. The public is invited.

Team Impact, Nov. 13 - 17

Hear Impact! See Impact! Feel Impact! The most electrifying performance of strength, force and power human eyes have ever seen will be held Nov. 13 – 16, 7 p.m., and Nov. 17, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Livingway Church, 1315 IH 35 North at the Pat Booker exit. For more information call (210) 637-5000.

“TWIGS” at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre, Nov. 13 – Dec. 21

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre is featuring “TWIGS”, a comedy by George Furth, Wednesday through Saturday evenings from Nov. 13 through Dec. 21 (no performances on Nov. 27 and 28). Prices are \$25.95 on Friday and Saturday and \$22.95 on Wednesday and Thursday. There are discounts for military personnel. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday evenings with the house opening for cocktails and salad bar at 6:15 p.m. Dinner is served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and curtain time is 8 p.m. For reservations call (210) 222-9694 or visit the theatre in advance. The box office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. Theatre is handicapped accessible.

¿Que Pasa?

Alamo AFCEA International Luncheon, Nov. 16

The Alamo Chapter of the AFCEA International will hold its monthly luncheon on Nov. 16 at 11:30 a.m. at the Gateway Club, Lackland Air Force Base. The guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. Harry D. Raduege, Jr., director, Defense Information Systems Agency and manager, National Communication Agency in Arlington, Va. All AFCEA members, service members and general public are invited. To make your reservations contact Commander Desiree D. Linson at (210) 925-4858 or visit the Alamo Chapter Web site: <http://www.alamoafcea.org/events/events.cfm>.

OCSC Wreath Auction, Nov. 19

The Officers’ and Civilians’ Spouses’ Club will hold its second annual wreath auction Nov. 19, 11 a.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Officers’ Club. For reservations call 444-0259 or 499-1047 no later than noon Nov. 15.

Health Fair, Nov. 19

It is Health Benefits Open Season again for Government employees and Civilian Personnel is hosting a Health Fair Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, 2010 Stanley Road, Bldg. 2797.

John Quinones 2002 Holiday River Parade Grand Marshall, Nov. 29

San Antonio native, John Quiñones, correspondent for the ABC News newsmagazines “Primetime Thursday” and “20/20” has been named Grand Marshall of the 2002 Holiday River Parade, which will take place Nov. 29 at 7:02 p.m. with the ceremonial “Pulling of the Switch” by Mayor Ed Garza, which illuminates over 122,000 twinkling lights suspended in the trees along the San Antonio River Walk.

Fort Sam Houston Tree Lighting, Dec. 4

The traditional tree lighting ceremony will take place at the main post flagpole Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. The 323d Army Band will play a medley of holiday music. The public is invited.

Crystal Charity Ball 2002, Dec. 5

The Crystal Charity Ball will be held Dec. 5, 7 p.m. to midnight. Enjoy an elegant dinner and dancing at the historic St. Anthony Hotel ballroom. Individual tickets \$100 each, table of 10, Corporate \$1000. For tickets or information call Brad Fuller 979-6420 or Mr. Scogin 490-2061. This event will benefit Dream Come True, Inc.

FSH Holiday Christmas Ball, Dec. 6

The Fort Sam Houston Christmas Ball will be held Dec. 6, 6 p.m. at the NCO Club. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased from your unit’s Command Sergeant Major or Sergeant Major, or the Garrison Operations Section. Meal options include chicken, beef, or vegetarian plate. Military dress uniform is highly encouraged, however eveningwear is optional. Entertainment and door prizes will also be provided. For more information call 221-2810.

Volunteers

Black Employment Program Committee prepared for MLK celebration

The Black Employment Program Committee needs your help. The committee meets the third Tuesday of each month in Bldg. 142 conference room at 1:30 p.m. Preparations are underway for the upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration in January and other Black history month activities in February. To volunteer, call the HR/EEO Office at 221-0218.

The Salvation Army seeks volunteers

Five volunteers are needed per day at West Elmira, two volunteers are needed per day at West Ashby and Fenfield from now until Christmas to answer very busy phones, and assist families who are registering for

Christmas. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., now through Oct. 25. To volunteer, call 325-2000 ext. 231 or email cathy_tompkins@vss.salvation-army.org.

In the classroom

ESL classes taught at the Roadrunner

English as a Second Language classes are held on Fort Sam Houston at the Roadrunner Community Center and are free. They are designed especially for foreign-born spouses to increase reading comprehension, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Classes are appropriate for beginner, intermediate and advanced students with individualized group instruction. The Army Community Service Relocation Assistance Program and the Region 20 Education Center sponsor classes. To register, call 221-2418.

Otras Cosas

2002 FEHB Open Season, Nov. 11 - Dec. 9

2002 Federal Employee Health Benefits Open Season begins Nov. 11, through Dec. 9. During this time, employees may elect to enroll or make changes to their existing health coverage. The effective date of the FEHB change for 2002 open season elections will be January 12, 2003. Employees can also find out information about open season at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/heath/hr.htm>.

Holiday Helping Hands Program assists families

This annual program assists Fort Sam Houston military, retirees, and civilians with Thanksgiving and Christmas food vouchers and toys for children at Christmas. Applications for those needing help are available through military units and offices for active duty and civilians. Retirees can obtain an application at the Roadrunner or the Installation Chaplain’s Office, Bldg. 2530, located next to Burger King. Deadline for submitting Thanksgiving Food Assistance application is Nov. 15. For information call Robb Wood at 221-5428 or Nancy Moore at 221-5005.

TSP Open Season, now - Dec. 31

Thrift Savings Plan Open Season is now through Dec. 31. Contribution percentages or dollar amount changes can be done via Internet at www.abc.army.mil or via telephone at 1-877-276-9287. Allocations of your investment can be changed via computer at www.tsp.gov. TSP is one of the best benefits government employees have with matching government contributions to the Federal Employee Retirement System. TSP is a vital part of the three-part retirement program (TSP, Social Security, and Pension). The OPM has advised employees under FERS who do not actively participate in TSP contributions, they can expect a retirement annuity at or below poverty level. Congress is concerned that one quarter of employees under the FERS system are not contributing to the TSP. The contribution limits will rise by another percentage point to 13 percent for FERS and 8 percent for CSRS employees this season.

Meetings

FSH Sergeant Major Association Meeting

The Fort Sam Houston Sergeants Major Association meets at the FSH NCO Club every Third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. Retired Sgt. Maj. Oscar R. Ramos, president of the Association invites all Active Duty and retired command sergeants major, sergeants major and master sergeants on the promotion list from all service branches to attend the meetings and share in the relaxed atmosphere of our social activities. For membership information, call Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Brown at 221-1676.

